SNCP New Member Welcome Team  
Meeting Notes  
July 20, 2022

1. Opening Prayer – Jill Niemi

2. Core Team Introductions.  
The core team members are Mary Jo Bugembe (HNJ), Jill Niemi (SC) and Ann Scharrer (SD). They introduced themselves and gave their reasons for joining. The mission statement developed by them was also read aloud.

3. Postcards  
There was a review of the postcards that were mailed out to approximately 110 SNCP parishioners who have joined since 2020. The postcards directed the new members to watch the bulletin for information about upcoming events.

4. Welcome Event Planning  
The core members informed the group that a Welcome Weekend has been determined to be our first event. It will take place at all Masses in the SNCP churches on the weekend of September 24 and 25. The core members called for discussion of ideas for how that event will look. The following ideas were developed.

- We will consider having committee representatives make personal phone calls to each new parishioner 4 weeks prior to the event.
- Information could appear in the bulletin as an insert followed by 2 weeks of announcements within the body of the bulletin. The timing of this would be discussed with Lori Biebel.
- Name tags could be given out to all parishioners attending the Masses that weekend.
  - Concern was expressed that having only the new members use name tags may be off-putting to them. And it was agreed that all would benefit from becoming familiar with the names of the other parishioners.
  - Additional discussion occurred re having a star or something similar to add to the newcomer’s name tags when they receive them, if they wish it.
  - Committee members would be available before the Masses at each entrance to provide the name tags.
- A member of our committee should provide a verbal ‘Welcome’ from the ambo/lectern at the end of each Mass.
- A social would follow each Mass with some type of bakery or snack.
- A full list of the names of new parishioners would appear in the bulletin. The timing of the appearance in the bulletin is to be determined.
- The list of names could also appear in the churches, e.g., on the screens in St. Dominic, on the monitor in the narthex of Holy Name, during the Welcome Weekend.
• A Welcome Packet could be given to each of the new parishioners at the Masses of Welcome Weekend.
• The priest would be asked to give a blessing of new parishioners; they could be asked to stand if they wish to do so.

5. Welcome Packet
   Ideas for the contents of the packet were discussed with the following agreed upon as the best
   • A letter from Fr. Mark
   • A simple list of the ministries available at the SNCP
   • A small gift, e.g., a magnet with the SNCP logo and website.

6. Other Welcoming Ideas
   Discussion of ideas for future welcoming events and activities was tabled due to time limitations. The following assignments were accepted for completion before the next meeting.
   • Bea VanGeffen will develop an announcement to be given by committee members after the Masses on Welcome Weekend and an announcement for the bulletin prior to that weekend
   • Cherie Wadle will research with Dave Leonhardt the cost of printing magnets for gifts and the possibility of their being completed in time for the Welcome Weekend.
   • A sign-up list was sent around for volunteer members to give the ‘welcome’ following each of the Masses on Welcome Weekend.
   • The SNCP Volunteers of this committee would be contacted via email by the Core Team as a means of determining who would feel comfortable having a new member contact them as a resource.
   • In the future, the committee will explore having Mentors/Mentor Families as part of the welcoming process.
   • Suggestion for future Bulletin: Welcome New Members
   • Our parish is blessed and enriched by the presence of all new parishioners. Our prayer is that they will find, in this place, a home where they can bring their sorrows and joys, their pain and triumphs.

7. Next Meeting
   The next meeting was set for August 17, 2022. It will again be held at St. Dominic in the Gathering Space at 6:30 p.m. The date has since been changed to August 15, 2022.

8. Closing Prayer

Submitted by: Cherie Wadle and Ann Scharrer
July 30, 2022