

Divine Mercy AFC Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2019

Church of Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth; St. Paul, Comfrey; St. Mary, Sleepy Eye, St. Michael, Morgan

The meeting of the Divine Mercy Area Faith Community was held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 6:33pm at the Church of the Japanese Martyrs, Leavenworth, church social room.

Members Present: Msgr. Eugene Lozinski, Andrea Boyle, Jim Hillesheim, Myron Mathiowetz, Colleen Wildt, Fr. Andy Michels, Jim Schwab, Joan Windschitl.

Members Absent: Greg Fuchs

New Council Member from St. Paul's: Marianne Schotzko.

Word Committee: Dan Davis.

Worship Committee: Sean Connolly

A. Call to Order

- * Msgr. Lozinski opened with the Evening Prayer-Liturgy of the Hours
- * Attendance was taken and noted.
- * Minutes were approved with the amendment to D: AFC Mission is November 17-18-19. MSA
- * Agenda approved. MSA

B. Pastor's Comments

Msgr talked about the Bishop's four priorities and six principles for Pastoral Planning. (Information from the September 2019 the Prairie Catholic issue).

1. The bankruptcy settlement agreement was announced on June 26, 2019. A Trust will be created consisting of the assets and a planned trustee, approved by the court, will then make payments to the victims and survivors sometime in February of 2020.
2. Pastoral Planning "To 2020 and Beyond". The Bishop would like to see the Diocese consist of 50 parishes. Currently there are 66 parishes, which means 16 parishes will be closed in the next 2-3 years. According to Canon Law, priests should celebrate no more than three Masses on the weekend. Parishioners should not be expected to travel over 20 miles to attend a Mass on any given weekend. Parishes with fewer than 80 people at any weekend Mass should be in discussion with their pastors and look prayerfully and honestly at the future of their parish. In addition, given the size of the DNU population, it is has too many parishes. With fewer parishes, the hope is that Catholics will come together in larger numbers and revitalized the Eucharist, and evangelize to those who are inactive Catholics.
3. Evangelization in parishes. DNU Service of Hope & Healing will take place at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye on December 6 at 7:00pm. A core group will be going door to door and invite people to attend this event.
4. Unity Among Priest-Gatherings and prayers being held to promote unity among all priest.

Msgr talked about St. Joseph's Church in Clements auction on Monday, Oct. 28. Everything was sold and the money will be used to raze the church and school buildings before June 30, 2020. ~~The rectory was sold to a family in the Clements community.~~ St. John's Church in Morton will be having an on-line auction with Mages Land Company & Auction Services. Bidding closing on November 4, 2019 at 6pm.

C. Worship and Spiritual Life (Christ as Priest):

1. No report as the committee did not meet.
2. AFC Mission: November 17-18-19 at St. Mary's. Father Jim Kubicki, a Jesuit Priest from Sioux Falls will be the speaker. Reception each evening will be taken care of by each of the four parishes: Sunday-St. Mary's; Monday-St. Paul's/Japanese Martyrs; Tuesday-St. Michael's. Each parish will provide five pans of bars and two helpers.
3. DNU Prayer for Hope & Healing, Friday, December 6 at 7:00pm at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye

D. Evangelization and Catechesis (Christ as Prophet)

1.a. Adult Faith Formation is going well. That Man is You has about 30 men participating each Friday morning at 5:45am in St. Mary's Church social room. Christ Life has 47 people in their core group who are meeting Sunday's at 5:00pm in St. Mary's Church social room. Colleen Wildt and Myron Mathiowetz continue to have Bible Study Wednesday mornings at Gil-Mor Manor in Morgan. Several groups gather in Sleepy Eye for book study.

b. Marriage Prep within the AFC-The couple calls to books their wedding and a Wedding Request Form is filled out and the date is scheduled. A letter with information on marriage prep and workshops are sent to the couple. The couple meet with the priest the first visit and then a mentor couple for 4-5 visits after that. They are required to attend a marriage prep program from DNU and God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage program at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye. They will meet with the priest again after meeting with the mentor couple and they also meet with Sean Connolly to choose music for the wedding.

Baptism Class is held the second Thursday, every-other-month at St. Mary's Church, Sleepy Eye. Couples do not need to attend if they have been to a class within 3-years of their last child.

Confirmation There are 35 candidates in the AFC preparing for Confirmation this year. It will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 9:30am at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye. The Extra Ordinary Form Confirmation will take place on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 5:30pm. The Latin candidate numbers are still coming in.

1st Reconciliation There is a parent meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at St. Mary's, Sleepy Eye

1st Communion There are a total of 38 children in the AFC preparing to make their 1st Communion.

c. "Letter to a Suffering Church" by Bishop Robert Barron will be handed out at Christmas.

Msgr would like to have a gathering of councils, committees, staff etc. in the AFC to discuss this book on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 6:30pm at St. Mary's Church social room, Sleepy Eye.

2. Catholic Schools-This is the last year for St. Michael's School, Morgan. The school year is going well. St. Mary's School, Sleepy Eye is also going well. The Homeschoolers are forming a co-op and would like to incorporate them into the Catholic school.

3. CCD-is up and running. There are a total of 132 students in the AFC attending a CCD program. 63-St. Mary's; 47-St. Michael's; 9-Japanese Martyrs; 13-St. Paul's. 26 are not attending.

14-St. Mary's; 3-St. Michael's; 2-Japanese Martyrs; 7-St. Paul's. It was suggested sending a letter to the parents of the students who are not attending welcoming them to the program. St. Mary's is currently doing a Puffin fundraiser. Students and parents from Japanese Martyrs will be preparing and serving the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 10.

4. Evangelization-Would like to have an AFC newsletter like the Immacula that St. Mary's publishes 3 times per year. Would need help from each parish and a new name for the publication.

E. Service (Christ as King/Servant)

KC's in Morgan have done "Coats for Kids" in the past, nothing set up this year yet. St. Paul's CCW is inviting the AFC CCW's to a meal/games on Dec. 5. On Dec. 6, they will be delivering meals to area senior citizens. Japanese Martyrs is having matching grant pancake breakfast once a month from October through February. Checking to see if St. Mary's Catholic United Financial can join Japanese Martyrs CUF. St. Paul's CUF has a "kick-off" calendar raffle dinner each year. Seven Sisters groups have formed and pray one hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament for the parish priests.

F. Stewardship

1. Msgr handed out a sheet showing AFC allocation for expenses for each parish in the AFC. The Allocation is based on diocesan DUF formula.
2. We welcomed new member, Marianne Schotzko from St. Paul's, Comfrey and Dan Davis, AFC DRE.

G. Next meeting will be at St. Mary's with all councils, committee's, staff etc. to discuss the book, which will be handed out at Christmas. **"Letter to a Suffering Church" by Bishop Robert Barron.**

H. Msgr closed with prayer for vocations with the Our Father and meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Windschitl