

Heart of Jesus Area Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 28th - 7:00pm at Olivia

Present: George Stadther, Mary Jo Schmoll, Maggie Wiggert, Carol Westhoff, Abby Thurston, Kim Lippert, Nancy Standfuss, Sara Anderson, Fr. Denny Labat, Fr. George Schmit

Absent: Diane Adamski

A. Opening Prayer by Father George Schmit

B. Routine Matters

1. Election of Officers – Maggie nominated MaryJo Schmoll as Chair and that the nomination cease, George Stadther seconded, all members in favor. Nomination made by Nancy Standfuss for Vice Chair of George Stadther, Mary Jo seconded – all members in favor. MaryJo nominated Abby Thurston as Secretary and that the nomination cease, George Stadther seconded, all members in favor.

1. Approval of minutes – motion made to approve minutes by Carol as they stand, seconded by Maggie – all members in favor of approval.

2. Additions to agenda – no additions to the agenda.

3. Parish Reports/coming events:

a. Bird Island – CCW baskets Dec 2nd, School Christmas program 18th of December, Reconciliation Service, Nick Davidson will be speaking to the kids 11/29 middle school and high school students on reconciliation, Poinsettia sales (sold 611), cyber bullying speaker for parents (11/29).

b. Hector – Nov CCW participated in holiday happenings/baked goods/silent auction went well, Dec 10 faith formation Christmas program after mass, men's breakfast in January 21st, buffalo lake healthcare center Christmas program Dec 11, Community Tour of Churches Dec 3.

c. Olivia – CCW pies/apple crisp sale for the youth and adult faith formation good AFC turnout from all parishes. Dec 7 Christmas Cantata, Faith Formation Christmas Program Jan 7 after 8:30 mass

d. Renville – Turkey Bingo went well for Knights of Columbus, Turkey Dinner for the parish numbers were down due to deer hunting (held Nov 4, will be the same date next year) looking for chairpersons for next year, Christmas program is after Christmas in January.

4. Liturgy, Education and CCW Reports –

Father George posed the question from the Liturgy committee as to the best times for the majority of the people at St. John's for Holy Day masses in the evening. Try asking people in the community what their preference is, Father George will try to mention it at the upcoming mass.

Faith Formation is going well for all classes.

C. Unfinished Business

1. AFC Mission 2019 – March 31st through April 3rd of 2019. Bill Wagner from Good News International. Recommendation from Bill is to have this scheduled at one location. About 6 months ahead of time start planning and making decisions.

2. AFC Mobile App - 50 apple users, 20 android users have downloaded the app.

Online giving is not as popular yet. Positive feedback from the app from many users. Sara reported it is very streamlined.

D. New Business

1. Parish Budget Letters/Ask to Increase Giving – Maggie noted that it wasn't that he was asking for hundreds more from people 😊 All agreed that sticking to the facts was very helpful in the homily when this topic was discussed.

2. Diocesan Study - AFC Questionnaires – Bulletin objectives – the Diocese has decided to work with the group that did the training with priests 3 or 4 years ago to do a survey of the people in the parishes on ministry & services within the parishes. This will be done online or via a hard copy. In the report we get back the report will be about our 4 parishes – it will not single out each individual parish. All participants responses will be processed as AFC Heart of Jesus. The Catholic Leadership Institute is conducting this. The survey is called the Disciple Makers Index. This will be done during Lent 2018. This survey seeks to provide feedback to evaluate which programs, events are the most effective in growing the faith in our community. This is a requirement from the Bishop to be done at all Area Faith Communities and the two stand-alone parishes.
3. Recap of Diocese Business Manager Meeting – Sara attended this meeting and gave a summary of some of the items she took away from the meeting. Mary Nordstrom presented on areas from the Willmar AFC Jesus Our Living Water on items that went well, things that didn't go as well. A few examples were 'Sacred Dates' for the area faith community (ex. Fall festivals, CCW Baskets), how their staffing changed from area faith staff member – no one was a specific church staff member, staff meeting one time a week even just for a short period on that day, the vision for their staff was important, how they kept staff on the same page, faith formation is held in 2 locations by the same leader/guides, all budgets are by the AFC, then each parish is then assessed their portion, Sunday envelopes stay with the parish. We also need to keep in mind that there are things that make it more complicated for our AFC Heart of Jesus due to St. Mary's Catholic School. We need to try to look at other AFC communities that have a school as to what they are doing.
4. Heart of Jesus AFC - What should be done as an AFC? Start asking and thinking about this question. What do we leave to the parishes versus AFC? One example would be funerals – each parish has a different printed program, another example is bibles for 7th graders, do we order the same bible for ALL 7th graders at each parish? Another idea that Fr. George brought up was that all parishes use the same Breaking Bread books. A list of each parishes 'known' songs would be good and see that one parish knows a song another doesn't. Potential to have a AFC liturgical meeting together to discuss that.

E. Future Business

1. Next meeting – Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:00pm
 - b. Deadline for additional agenda items (week before meeting)

F. Adjourn and closing prayer was said by Fr. Denny.

Future meetings: **1st Thursday** of September, December, March and May at 7:00pm at Olivia:
Sept. 7, 2017; Dec. 7, 2017; March 1, 2018; May 3, 2018;