***St. Mary’s Parish Pastoral Council***

Minutes from Work Session

November 19, 2018

6:30 pm: President Adam Haluska called the meeting to order.

6:31- **Roll Call-** June Maiers – by sign in.

Present Members: Father Tim, Adam Haluska, Sue Schmitt, Jeff Geistkamper, Michel Montgomery, Marianne, Harney, Brandon Nitcher, Michel Montgomery, Julie Agne, Mark Sovers, June Maiers

6:32 – **Opening Prayer**- The Vision Statement and 2020 prayer was read.

6:35 – **Motion to approve minutes**- Moved by Montgomery, 2nd by Father Tim. Unanimous Approval. (9)

6:37 **– General Discussion – Letter to Diocese regarding new parish priest**

* Letter that was drafted by Sue Schmitt – see additional page .
  + Adam to check on number of families that have been added each year to include in letter.
  + We currently have an average of 3 baptisms per month. Do they come back/stay involved? Julie shared that Lindsay Carey and Brandon Nitcher work with the baptismal prep course and do a nice job.
  + Patty Benzing meets with new families to introduce them to the church.
  + Fr. Tim suggested to use the following language:
    - “We ask you, our bishop and the personnel board to please take this into consideration…”
    - “We believe the Holy Spirit will choose wisely for us.”
    - Additional corrections were made to the letter. Will present to council again.

6:50 **– Updates and upcoming events**

* Fr. Tim shared earlier that the new roof will be done in spring.
* Ecumenical Service
  + Helping hands did a great job. Plenty of soup, 60-65 for supper
  + Choir was beautiful,
  + Well attended from other parishes, 50-60 in church.
  + Pastor Ron from Methodist church had a good message.
* Julie Agne:
  + Couples’ weekend in Wisconsin was attended by 8 couples and was a great experience
  + 2020 Vision:
    - “Speak Out” session was held 10/28/2018 at 6:00 pm.
    - Met with facilitator and had to answer 4-5 questions.
  + Discipleship:
    - January is a perfect time to talk about discipleship.
    - Will have 2 Discipleship Sunday’s in January. 1st to talk about how we are to respond to the call given at Baptism. 2nd to show how folks can become involved.
    - There are studies we can do to help educate us
    - Disciples grow and then serve others. Hope to get families and/or groups to get together to become disciples
    - Pope Francis says he wants ALL of you. It’s worth the risk
    - Additional idea: Fr. Tim will announce during mass that he would like to meet with new families
  + Next Steps:
    - Get group representatives from parish who are free to meet during the day in February and again in the summer for diocesan wide meetings. Let Julie know if you are interested in being part of it.
    - Is there actually fruit on the tree? We are doing amazing things, but have much work to do. There are many who don’t know Christ and we have to help them and show them.
    - Consider: Are we on maintenance or mission?
    - Adam shared that Protestants seem to have it easier. It’s tougher to be Catholic – tougher for us to evangelize than to just hand out prayer cards as some Protestant faiths do.
    - Per Julie, we are not supposed to try convert our Protestant friends, and the story about the Pope and his rabbi friend was shared. We should be inviting and welcoming, and just be with them in their walk. We should share about the beauty, truth, and goodness of our faith and the Lord.
  + Fr. Tim challenged all members of the council to really step up and get involved. We need to be more involved and need to learn more so we can share.
  + JoEllen Ritchie created a Facebook page for St. Mary. Jeri Bollwith has been adding to the site.
  + Advent: Information was provided on opportunities in the parish for prayer, adoration, and reconciliation and will be sent to homes and put in bulletin.
  + Discipleship Sunday Committee volunteers: Mark Sovers, June Maiers.
* Cemetery improvement:
  + Fundraising goal is $150,000
  + Have received some offers and donations
  + There is concern about people not or no longer being connected to the old church and cemetary.
  + Might have folks from the committee come and speak in church
  + Need sign with thermometer for fund raising progress in church – will be a reminder as well.
* Kathy Hirl emailed recap regarding November events and mentioned that veteran’s day and the All Soul’s day services and receptions went very well.
* Nancy Upmeyer, parish nurse:
  + 3 new people are helping with homebound communion and
  + The mental health presentations were well attended.
  + The flu shot clinic was well attended
* Reminder - December 2 will be the Cookie walk, and KC’s breakfast with Santa.

7:28 – **Next Meeting:** Monday December 10, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

7:30 – **Closing Prayer**

7:32- **Adjourn**