

St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes from Work Session

November 18, 2019

6:37 pm -President Alan Wieskamp called the meeting to order.

6:38 – **Opening** - The St. Mary Vision Statement was read.

6:39- **Roll Call**- June Maiers – by sign in.

Present Members: Bonnie Mattaliano, Carole Martin, Adam Haluska, Michel Montgomery , Sue Schmitt, Alan Wieskamp, Fr. Charles, June Maiers. Guests: Tom Stout, Jeri Bollwitt, Theresa Bonnema

6:40– **Prayer** - Diocesan Vision 2020 prayer.

6:42 – **Motion to approve minutes** with updates - Moved by Adam Haluska, 2nd by Sue Schmitt, Unanimous Approval. (8)

6:44 – **Tom Stout – discussion regarding Boy Scout events and leader certification requirements**

- Discussion due to “Safe Environment” requirements.
- Boy Scouts have a soup supper on 02/08/2020. Leaders were told that Virtus training was required. Tom asked for clarification since requirements state that adults “working alone” are required to have Virtus. However, none would be alone.
- Boy Scouts are chartered through the American Legion, not through St. Mary. Thus, per Jeri Bollwitt, the Scouts are a 3rd party and not subject to the same requirements. Jeri requested a copy of their policy statement to list what is required for training as well as a list of leaders who have one through the required training.
- Virtus training not required for Boy Scout leaders.

6:55 –**Virtus requirements – Jeri Bollwitt**

- Who is required to have Safe Environment training?
- “Safe Environment” applies to protecting youth and vulnerable adults. That is a large umbrella that covers many categories including homebound, handicapped, those grieving, etc. Virtus is the database/application.
- An audit was done by the Diocese when we had a new DRE, pastor, and secretary all within a short period of time.
- We have a backlog of deficiencies to correct and need to identify all who need training, including all who work with children, etc
- There is a category for all who work with money at the church, and a category for employees, and categories for physical environment that cover things like snow removal, locked areas, etc.
- A new program is starting in January, per the USCCB
- Safe Environment protects those who are trained as well.
- There will be some who may be upset by the changes and the parish council needs to be aware of this situation, so we can help others in the parish with understanding and acceptance of the new requirements

7:06 – **Stewardship**

- Stewardship will be a separate commission.
- In some parishes, it has an aspect of the Finance council/committee. Here it pertains to Time and Talent and not financial support.
- Mark Sovers will come to a future meeting with information and plans.
- In past we have had Stewardship Fair. Might be good to have one along with a meal.

7:10 – **Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Mass location**

- June discussed the various pros and cons of moving this Mass to the SHS Performing Arts Auditorium. Highlights:
 - Setup and tear down considerations
 - Safety issue with exceeding capacity in the Hall
 - Items to transport to and from SHS
 - Visual advantage with no barriers
 - Concern about a feeling of being entertained as opposed to reverence due during a Mass
 - Concern about those who may get to Mass only once a year, and not having it at the Church building.
 - Communion logistics and need special permission to use wine
- Poll of all council members taken, and all were in favor of moving the 5PM Christmas Eve Mass to the SHS CFPA.

7:26 – Staff Job Descriptions – Sue Schmitt.

- Sue has been meeting with all employees and identifying who is responsible for what at the parish.
- Trying to work to reduce Father's work load.
- Meeting with all staff to get lists of their duties and compare those with lists from the diocese for each job.
- Adult DRE will be changed to a part time job. Fr. Charles will be identifying what he expects for this position.
- Looking at shifting some of Jeri's (DRE) admin work to Nichole.
- Goal to have job descriptions published by 12/10/2019.
- Parish staff requirements have changed as we had 580 families 6 years ago, and now have 730.
- Nichole is hourly and is working more hours than hired for. Considering changing her position to fulltime.
- Finance committee needs to look at budget for these considerations

7:32 – **Giving Tree – Sue Schmitt** - is now completely up to date.

7:33 – **Angel Tree** – will fall under Social Action Committee.

7:34 – Theresa Bonnema – Mary's Meals

- In the past they have not had Chip-timed races for their fund-raising event. The next event in May will have a chip-timed race, which is an official race with runners' times published. This will draw more serious runners and give a greater turnout.
- In order to have this sort of race, will need to have sponsors. Sponsors need to write checks to a 5031c, non-profit.
- The group is asking if we can let the sponsors only write checks to St. Mary and then have St. Mary pay for the timers, shirts, etc.
- A 5031c takes 6 to 12 months to acquire, plus requires an up-front cost.
- Other churches do this for the same fund-raiser.
- This could easily double the amount raised
- Fr. Charles is in favor. It is not difficult to add another account
- Vote taken, all were in favor.

6:55 – Shared Reading – “Forming Intentional Disciples”

- Need to identify why people are leaving the Catholic Church. They are looking for a personal connection and hospitality, and not finding what they want. We have to realize that something is missing and take steps to correct. Hospitality needs to start in the parish.
- We are starting in our parish. Father has us introducing ourselves to others by name at start of Mass.
- Do we need to train greeters and ushers to be more welcoming?
- Could greeters wear name tags?
- Read through first 3 chapters for continued discussion at January meeting.

8:08 – **Next Meeting:** December 16, 2019 @ 6:30pm

8:10 – **Closing Prayer – Vocation prayer**

8:11 - **Adjourn**