

St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes for Work Session Meeting on October 19, 2020

Zoom Meeting, 6:30

6:40 – **Gathering and Welcome:** St. Mary Vision Statement

To create and maintain a Christ-centered catholic community where our personal call to holiness, service and spiritual growth leads to continued authentic witness as Christ's disciples.

6:41 – **Roll Call :** In attendance: Carole Martin, Adam Haluska, Father Charles, Jeri Bollwitt, Mark Prentice, Alan Wieskemp, June Maiers

6:43 – **Opening Prayer:** Father Charles

6:45 –**Minutes:** Motion to approve: – Moved by Adam Hauluska, 2nd by Mark prentice second, Unanimous approval. (6).

6:50 – **Topics**

1. Turn out for public rosary event – Saturday 10/10 - 10 people – 8 women, 2 men. Very nice. Would like to do more of these...may have more. 20,000 meetings going on around country at same time.
2. Shared reading for Council – *Forming Intentional Disciples, Chapter 5 & 6.*
 - Recognizing the 5 Thresholds of Conversion. Hard to make things happen right now with the social distancing requirement. Difficult to reach out for engagement.
 - What book is talking about personal relationships can't really be realized right now. We have to stay distant. This distance makes it difficult to reach out and see how people are feeling.
 - Sad to see how many folks have not been back to church. Many reasons...not required, some afraid, folks busy. Viewership at 8:30 Sunday – still over 100 devices online which is encouraging.
 - It is difficult to become a disciple of God without the Eucharist. Could we do some sort of a promo to get folks to come back in? Is there room? 8:30 seems pretty full, but the other Masses may have room
 - Still in "Step 2" in regards to Diocesan Pandemic protocol, requiring the space between us.
3. Seating arrangement in pews.
 - When is "Step 3"? – Step 3 is when the diocese will tell us. On the D.O.D website, there is no indication of when it will happen, or what the criteria is. Some frustration among parishioners. Frustration among pastors that other diocese and other parishes are not doing things the way that we are, as directed by Diocese. Expected by diocese that we might be still at step 2 at Easter 2021. What is going on at the Catholic schools...for sports, lunch etc? New recommendations of using

masks should make a difference – counts are staying down. Can we see what schools are doing for events?

- 105 seats in church, 25 in gathering space. What if more show up? Tough to have folks sitting in gathering space. Concerned with how people feel when they come back if there is no place to sit. Could we go to sitting every other row? No. It is actually in the edict from the diocese specifying every 3rd row.
- Ushers need to work on seating individuals or couples to make better use of room. Have ushers work at being great greeters, welcoming folks and nice to see them in church.

4. Finance meeting & Lay directors meeting – take-aways.

- Vocations and need for priests discussed. We are facing a shortage. (76 parishes and 55 priests now). Personal relationships – will come down to folks who have a great relationship with Christ...who have become good disciples. Per Bishop, we need to pray more and work to develop vocations and priests in our individual parishes. We need to help our youth build great personal relationships with Christ. Our church was blossoming with many young families. We realize this is a challenge with Covid. How do we overcome?
- Emmaus walk – Jesus walked with folks to get them back on track. Bishop encouraging us to get back on track in the same way. One on one meetings with folks. Discuss faith, working on Lectio Divina with another person, allow word of God to come to folks. Encouraging one on one Evangelization. Will be instructions on the D.O.D website. (informal zoom meetings to learn about Emmaus group initiative.)
- Some thoughts about how to handle smaller parishes - how to combine parishes if necessary, etc. Some parishes are at different stages....maintenance, growth, etc.
- Our parish has been very strong with adult faith formation...attending conferences, study groups, etc. We need to keep that going.

As in our discipleship book – to grow faith, tell stories as part of evangelizing. Don't force feed the faith...tell a story – your own story. Sharing something relatable...telling stories with your own parables is a good way to catch folks' attention. We are still growing as a parish (3 new families within last 2 weeks) but not as much as we were pre-covid.

- #### 5. How is church sanitizing going? – How are numbers? Have a good number willing to help. Today Father hired Kristen Ward and Dan Krafka to come in and do deep cleaning. (vacuuming, window washing, etc.) Sally Holte continuing to clean regularly. We have sufficient numbers right now, but some are going on vacation so will need others to step up. Will need some support. Will check on sign up genius to see if slots are open. Nichole and Geri trying to fill open slots. We as council need to help recruit.

6. Update on Stewardship committee – Mark Sovers? Have not received a response from him. Father Charles will reach out to Mark Sovers to present at December Meeting – (12/14).

7. Duane and Mydge Krob have been on finance committee. Due to health considerations, Duane would like to step back from the role. Looking for suggestions for one or a couple to join in their place. Send Fr. suggestions. (Duane was instrumental in starting church tithing to charities.)

7:45 – Summary –

1. Council discussion on chapters. Chapter 7 only for next time (December). Mark Sovers & stewardship will be the main focus of that meeting.
2. Next steps for opening up.

7:55 – Next meeting (Business) – November 16, 2020. 6:30. (Also December 14 at 6:30)

7:56 – Closing Prayer: Father Charles

7:57 - Adjourn