

St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes for Work Session Meeting on February 15, 2021

Zoom Meeting, 7:00

7:06– **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.

7:07 – **Roll Call** - Those present include: Mark Prentice, Sue Schmitt, Father Charles, Jeri Bollwitt, Adam Haluska, Alan Wieskamp, June Maiers

7:08 – **Opening Prayer:** Father Charles

7:10 – **Approval of Minutes:** January Meeting – Fr Charles, moved, Sue Schmitt seconded, approved – unanimous

7:15 – **Topics**

1. Shared reading for Council – *Forming Intentional Disciples, Chapter 6.*

Curiosity:

-Observation of talking about Jesus as line item instead of core of our faith – need to find and establish gift of Christ who has invited them to come to church and meet with him. People compartmentalize Jesus as a line item. Good wake up call.

-Different reasons why people come and we need to try to relate to all.

-Note where Jesus answers a question with a question. Good learning technique. If asking questions, it implies that you're interested. Great for conversation and learning about others.

-Many Catholics are quite defensive when asked about faith journey and don't want to talk about it.

-Have learned more about what the word "disciple" means. There's an expansion that must occur – in terms of our faith journey in order to become disciples.

- We don't talk about our faith story very much, and we should. Should tell the story.

- As a cradle Catholic, sometimes, don't have the "aha" moment that Protestants often like to talk/hear about it. Sometimes it has just been a lifetime of growing your faith little by little.

- As Catholics, we have the opportunity to receive Eucharist at every mass we attend. We recognize that it is the Body of Christ. And we have that within us transforming us too. For our entire life as a Catholic. As Catholics, we don't necessarily tell others about it. Many have communicated since getting Communion at Mass, they have been overjoyed.

- Not always just the activities we do in a parish, but we must gear towards the salvation of Christ. Have to look at it always as new and not take it for granted.

- personal relationship with Jesus – developing that is key to spiritual growth. Seems simple but really isn't. Large percentage of passive people who just show up and take things for granted. The more you dive in, the more you get out of it.

- As Catholics, not used to witnessing our faith to others around us. No "altar calls." Our journeys are often more private.

- Sometimes hard to talk about our journey unless in a setting where things like that are being talked about – like a retreat.

- Often when start sharing about faith, gain new good friends.

- Part of evangelization is bring excitement to those who don't have it at all – including those in church

- Need to also encourage the young folks to look for opportunities to continue to grow their faith when they go to college. (Newman center, Athletes for Action, SPO, etc.)

- Page 151 – Catholic church as a sign of contradiction - Being good families and showing us that our faith makes a difference – living for Jesus and the kingdom, and not for the world. Counter-cultural.
- need to promote a strong prayer life, and the greatness of confession.
- do we need a retreat to make progress on this? Or a parish Mission?
- Diocesan retreat coming up – March 27 – 10AM to Noon.
- Salvation study that Frank Klima will be doing – starts on 02/23.
- How do we react to someone’s curiosity by meeting them where they’re at? - Tell a story...tell a personal story. Much to understand where they’re at in order to build their trust, and why they walked through the door, then have the ability to discuss a little on apologetics and tell your story.
- To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda but rather to live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God did not exist.
- confirmation kids – writing a homily journal. Asking questions – might not be a bad idea to offer to all the parish for additional contemplation.
- Reach chapter 7 for next work session.

2. Discussion on upcoming Lenten celebrations.

See Liturgy notes.

3. Current Mass times discussions – need to wait 3 hours after Mass is over before we can spray. Then half an hour to spray after. Hard to get folks in to clean at other times. And that’s a struggle. Many folks want the 10:30 Mass back. As soon as the diocese gives us the go-ahead, and we can get it scheduled, we will switch back. Not possible currently.

4. Update on Parish calls and planning for opening parish when it eventually will come.

Last 7 people have been assigned to committee. Hope to start 2nd round after March 1. There are folks that have not called back or have numbers that are out of service. Need to try to get school contact list from PTO for cross reference.

We are “open”. A lot of folks during calls thought we were not open. We need to promote that we are open. We have restrictions in place, but church is open. Masks still required, per diocese, despite Governor’s mandate.

8:12 – **Summary** –

1. Set agenda for upcoming meetings. – Next meeting is a business Meeting

8:16 – **Next meeting** (Business) – March 15, 7:00

8:18 – **Closing Prayer:** Father Charles;

8:21 – **Adjourn**