



Stella Maris Parish Leadership Planning Meeting  
Baileys Harbor  
Thursday, January 22, 2015

Present: Fr. Dave Ruby, Br. Ray Kozuch-Moderator, Michelle Piatek, Michael Smith, June Biemeret, Sharon Brabson, Paul Liss, Jan Liss, Bart Ahern, Larry Garzke, Jeanne Rabel, Kathy Sedan, Becky Nash, Judy Anschutz, Doug VanVorous, Linda Cummer, Pat Gureski, Alice Stollenwerk

Brother Ray led us in prayer as the meeting began at 1:00PM. He asked us to focus on getting in touch with church, stating, “the more we get in touch with God in our heart, the more we minister to our church family.”

Purpose: Focusing on a mission of our parish and creating a possible new mission statement in conjunction with the Diocesan mission. Our task is to listen to everything that is going on and its importance. We need to ask ourselves, “What is it that makes it holy?”

Br. Ray asked for comments on what holds us back from have the best parish we can be.

Comments: It is hard for people to let go of “how we did it in the past”. How do we get past that?

Why can't we move in to the future as one?

Some people don't want to change. Change is hard for all of us.

Hopefully with the younger generation taking on responsibility, “the way we did it in the past” will go away.

How do we get to the identity that we are one parish?

Br. Ray: You don't want to forget the values of history of the past. He suggests that we put significant prayer and thought into making this mission statement and let the people of the congregation know you have really worked on this.

Comments: Being site specific is not really an issue. It is ok for people to hold on to the history of the site they have been associated with for many years to retain the historical value of the former individual names of the sites, while still participating as one new parish.

Finding the right people to minister to the parish at the right times and right places, and to step up to some of the plans to do a task or event that the parish wants to accomplish.

Communication is also a struggle sometimes from Council to committee to individual. We are working on the policy and procedures in a good order which will make it better for everyone to collaborate parish life.

We have to remember that other Christian churches are experiencing some of the same issues: decreased attendance, aging of the faithful, less participation of youth, etc.

Positives: Liturgy, Music and Preaching is very good.

In speaking of a relationship with God, it is noted that only 40 percent of the people in the pews are in a personal relationship with God; and 30 percent of the youth of which only 10 percent are active in the church.

Br. Ray: The mission statement will say what we want to do in the next five years to make it better. The pastor needs to know what more he needs to do and how we can help to make this happen.

We pray for one another that we all have a faith; that we use the opportunity to help others feel the relationship with God. We can't live in the past.

Fellowship is evangelization within.

Br. Ray: People come to spirituality and holiness in different ways and at different times. We all have different experiences in church. It comes to "where is God leading us and bringing forth his holiness to each of us." When we hear our own voice in group, we have the potential to grow. The important thing is that we look at what we hear in group and not try to hold others back. Continue to be a gift to your parish within your ministry.

Question: What have we done wrong that so many of our children are not attending church?

Br. Ray: Pointing to his heart, God lives in our center. Sometimes it is important to talk with our youth to say that you are sad, how you feel that they are not attending church. Think about what God would do. He will continue loving them where they are.

## **Creating the Mission and Vision Statements**

The existing mission statement was read: "*Stella Maris Parish, guided by our Patron, lives and share the mission of Jesus Christ.*"

Br. Ray: What is it that is important for your parish? What is missing from the statement?

Comments: the mission of Jesus Christ is not defined. It could state that the mission means to me as a member of the parish.

Listed desirable guidelines in statement:

- 1) Discipleship
- 2) Sharing the Good News
- 3) Listening with the heart of Jesus
- 4) Being prayerful.
- 5) Listening to the heart of Jesus through Mary
- 6) Guided by Mary
- 7) Bring people to Jesus Christ

Br. Ray: The mission statement is something that tells us what we should do.

**Rewritten Mission Statement:**

**The Mission of Stella Maris Catholic Parish prayerfully  
unites people in the love of Jesus guided by our Patron, Mary.**

The existing vision statement was read: *We continue our journey to grow in faith and to unite as one vibrant parish. Through quality liturgical services, pastoral care, stewardship and planning to meet the needs of our community, we invite all to become involved in our parish family.*

**Rewritten Vision Statement:**

**We invite all to journey as disciples. By sharing the Gospel  
and responding to Jesus' love and the gifts God has given us,  
we welcome all to grow in faith and in our parish life.**

**Planning the Next Five Years:**

Br. Ray: Fr. Dave will announce our activity where we have reviewed the past and worked through developing our new mission and vision statements. We now need to put a plan in place to accomplish our mission and vision.

Suggested ways to do so:

- 1) Continue Faith Formation programs
- 2) Getting more people involved in more ministries and organizing the ministries better
- 3) Develop vibrant worship
- 4) Continue pastoral care
- 5) Leadership witnessing our gifts
- 6) In the "all" that we welcome in our vision statement, we need to include the young and old

Br. Ray: We need to contemplate on this. What are we doing now, what should we continue, what should we stop and what should we add. We need to promote some of the above listed ideas. We should evaluate our plan of action at the end of each year. Together we are church through our priest and bishop.

The meeting ended at 4:00PM with a closing prayer. A date was set for the next gathering of parish leadership to continue working on an action plan on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at Stella Maris, Baileys Harbor beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pat Gureski