

Stella Maris Leadership Communication Meeting Sept 3, 2015

The meeting began with Stella Maris Parish Prayer at 9:00 a.m. following celebration of the Eucharist at Stella Maris Sister Bay

Introduction of attendees: There were eighteen members present and all introduced themselves.

Pastor comments Fr. Dave Ruby commented on our Journey of Discipleship in the Parish. Fr. Dave stated he was comfortable with all of the activity in the parish through the guidance of our commissions, and committees. We need to recognize our thresholds of discipleship and continue to work toward forming our individual intentional discipleship. Every group in this parish needs to work together and remember we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Commissions and Committees Reports:

Some written reports were submitted prior to the meeting.

Christian Service and Responsibility – Jan Liss described the goals of CSR which is to witness Christ's message of love and compassion through financial support for those in need, locally and throughout the world; and engaging, motivating and facilitating parish members in works of charity and social justice.

Prayer Shawl - Dixie VanVorous the activities of the twenty-some members of the group who knit and crochet shawls for members of the parish and community who need to know at a hard time in their life that we care for them. Scarves and other items were also made this past year for the graduating seniors of the parish.

St. Vincent De Paul – Elaine Mulligan spoke for the Committee which responds to persons in need as referred to them through the parish office. The Committee has also taken on the annual Strawberry Festival fundraiser.

Right To Life – Monica Mutchler described the activities of the Right to Life Committee. The next Respect Punta Ahuano (Life) Meeting is September 17 at 8:45 am in Sister Bay.

Faith Formation: - Mark Kunstman reported on the Adult and Youth Faith formation activities, both past and future.

Finance Council – Michael Smith stated the goals of the Council are to help the parish office to better work with the software provided by the Diocese. The Council is working on formalizing the budget process and also working on a Capital Plan for a five year outlook. The Council works with the Stewardship Committee on how we can generate more money for parish operation.

Christ Renews His Parish – Sharon Brabson reported over 120 women in the parish have experienced CRHP and we are on group nine. The next session will be October 24 and 25. We sponsor one or more socials during the year to bring all women who have gone through CRHP to reunite with each other.

Worship and Spiritual Life: The report was submitted by Mary Gomoll who stated the goals of the Commission were to implement the guidelines and suggestions for “The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy” year as requested by Pope Francis; to follow the diocesan guidelines for “Teach My People to Pray”; and to organize parish liturgical ministries and develop the parish worship guides.

Council of Catholic Women – Pat Gureski and Sharon Brabson reported on the new multi-site formation of Council of Catholic Women in the parish. This is a growing organization that meets monthly alternating afternoon and evening meetings at the various sites. The purpose of the organization is to empower and educate women in Spirituality, Leadership and Service, responding to Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world through leadership in collaboration with the Vicariate, Diocesan and National Council of Catholic Women.

Baileys Harbor Rosary and Altar Sodality Kriss Schorer reported the group currently has seven active members – basically serving funeral dinners and fundraisers for the Mary Garden in front of the rectory. Sponsoring a combination bake sale and everything sale on the 27th of September.

Stewardship Commission – Tom Polacek reported the Commission works under the guidelines of the Finance Council to guides us as disciples of Christ to offer some of the gifts we receive from God to serve our Church and greater community. With this in mind, we are called to pray and reflect upon our personal calendars and consider how we can best use our time and gifts.

Buildings and Grounds – Dick Dannhausen spoke that a committee has been active since summer. The committee oversees the maintenance person, Jimmy Nowlan, to help him evaluate needs and organize a plan. The committee is also working with the Finance Council to establish the capital plan.

Cemeteries – Fr. Dave reported the parish has four cemeteries that are in good shape. We are not experiencing as many burials and traditional burials. We need to look at a long range plan for each of the cemeteries, like if there is a need for road improvements, etc.

Working Together as a Parish Sharon Brabson spoke that this meeting is progressing well for all commissions and committees to work together. The Pastoral Council is an umbrella that oversees the commissions and committees as a communication tool. The Council wants a member from each commission to become a member of the Pastoral Council. Sharon also spoke regarding the welcoming committee and would like to see the committee grow under the stewardship commission to follow up with new people in the parish. She would also like to put a brochure together to describe all the commissions and committees and what each parish group does.

Budget Process Update: Michael Smith reported on the financial status of the parish. The budgeted revenues dropped a little from the fiscal 2013-2014 year. Currently the support is up for this year, but our expenses are also running high. Generally we are studying what makes up our parish support and work with our parishioners to become a stewardship parish.

Discussion and Questions:

Alice Stollenwerk spoke that from the reports she heard at today's meeting the parish is a benefit as an evangelical outreach in our community.

Tom Polacek suggests more meetings of this type to share what we're doing throughout the year. Sharon then mentioned the opportunities to do so with our Sept 24 leadership appreciation gathering and the October 8 Prayer day at the Norbertine Abbey and November 6 planning meeting at Baileys Harbor. The Parish annual meeting needs to be scheduled. Michelle Piatek stated we are creating a community of disciples to help the parish do what it is supposed to do. We also work within our operational guidelines. Oct. 29 is the Diocesan leadership congress in Green Bay.

The meeting concluded for several members to meet as Pastoral Council

Recorded by

Pat Gureski, Secretary of Pastoral Council