

**STELLA MARIS LEADERSHIP PLANNING MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 29, 2016**

**Members Present:** Sharon Brabson, Linda Cummer, Michelle Piatek, Becky Nash, Bart Ahern, Paul and Jan Liss, Mary Gomoll, Father Dave, Kathy Sedan, Alice Stollenwerk, Elaine Mulligan, Tom Polacek,

**Check-in and Prayer**

**Review Committee Meetings on Welcoming Value:** We were asked to share our experiences in reaching out to the various committees and commissions as we introduced the first Guiding Value of Welcoming and Hospitality.

Jan & Paul Liss spoke with CSR. They asked the members to recall an example of how/when they either did or didn't feel welcome or welcomed others. There was a lot of neat input. One example was of a family attending Mass at JP, but the children weren't thrilled. A son got pulled into ushering that day and it changed his whole attitude toward church. He wanted to go to church so that he could help usher because he felt needed. However, Jan & Paul felt that a lot of people in the group seemed to think that having a coffee hour after Mass and asking the ushers to greet people at the door was all they really needed to do to make others feel welcome. Some suggestions their group gave included:

1. Allowing time for people to find the songs before starting.
2. Inviting the visitors to stand and be recognized.
3. When some complained about it being too noisy in church to pray before Mass, others responded that Sunday Mass is for building community and perhaps they could attend Mass during the week when it is often more quiet.

Becky and Doug worked with the Prayer Shawl group and with Stewardship. Tom mentioned that he noticed people making a more concerted effort to be welcoming after being gone for six months. It was also mentioned that we need to change our mindset about what it means to be welcoming and who should be welcoming. There is opportunity to welcome at Mass, but we also need to come back to new parishioners and reach out to them, inviting them in, which we will do.

Bart and Mary attended a Knights of Columbus meeting. Although they tried to affirm all the good that the Knights accomplish, there were negative comments made regarding things that had happened in the past (not using the original church names, changing Mass times from what they had been to something less convenient for parishioners, questioning why we have so much singing --- why can't there be high and low Masses offered, people in charge (pastors and lay leaders) saying hurtful things to parishioners which drives them away, not offering a Latin Mass, etc.). There were some positive efforts made by committee members to see where their group was welcoming others in offering all the help they give to the parish.

Alice spoke with the Loaves and Fishes group. They felt that the 24/7 Food Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul, and other efforts were reaching out to make those in need of help feel more welcome.

Sharon spoke with St. Vincent de Paul and the Finance Council. Overall, it was well-received, although some were disgruntled and had a "This is my church." attitude.

Elaine thought the presentations she attended and the sharing were very well done. Jan & Paul's presentation involved a specific question, which really opened the discussion up. Tom thought we needed to also observe the gaps of when we're bringing these messages to our people. Sharon suggested that she make up a form for use in the future asking the presenters to share with which group they presented to and any comments that were made, which we thought was a good idea.

**Ministry Directory:** The directory became available to parishioners shortly before our meeting, so Sharon made sure we each had a copy. Brief discussion of what this directory can do to help within our parish.

**Update:** Parish Communication regarding the Parish mission and vision statements. Father Dave sent out a letter to parishioners asking people to pray about and then offer responses to the following questions:

1. When I read the parish mission and vision statements, what do I hear God saying to me?

2. When I read the parish mission and vision statements, what do I hear God saying to our parish?

This will be mailed to homes by July 15 and responses were to be returned by July 31. They could be returned via the collection or taken/mailed to the parish office. Copies of the responses will be printed and available at the discernment discussion meetings. An impartial person will lead the discussion at the discernment meetings and volunteers from the Leadership Planning Group were asked to attend and take notes.

All members of the Stella Maris Leadership Planning group are encouraged to attend at least one of these discernment discussions! Below are the times and dates of the discernment discussions and who will help at them. **Please mark your calendars!**

Friday, August 5                      8:45 AM at BH                      Bart and Mary

Tuesday, August 9                      1:00 PM at JP                      Jan and Paul

Sunday, August 14                      2:00 PM at WI                      Tom

Thursday, August 18                      6:00 PM at SB                      Elaine

Wednesday, August 24                      8:45 AM at EH                      Kathy

Wednesday, August 31                      6:00 PM at FC                      Sharon

**Finance Committee Long Range Plan:** Tom Polacek spoke regarding the 10 year plan to upgrade our parish churches. It will take about \$1,000,000 to paint all the churches and upgrade the parking lots, roofs, and basements. It will cost an additional \$500,000 to remodel and upgrade the parish office. With the property sale, we could lay out about \$600,000, but most of that would be used to remodel the office.

What about other major updates needed? How do we get the information of where we are financially out to our parish members? We must have full support of the parish in order to proceed with the Building and Grounds

plans. We need more intense ongoing communication with our people. We need a group to present this and back it.

Father's letter sent out in July mentions that "later in the year, we will begin to discern our parish material resources." This can tie in with the finance council and parish pastoral council. The listening sessions will eventually lead to discernment for the long range plans.

**Next step for Leadership Committee:** Sharon began a discussion and asked our opinions on which of the values we should present next. However, in light of Father Dave's letter and request for prayerful discernment regarding our mission and vision statements, we felt it best to hold off for a while. We inadvertently put the cart before the horse by not presenting our initial plans for the five guiding values to the parish. We will encourage the discernment portion first, then go back to our guiding values and how best to present them. Below is the current plan:

### **Summer 2016**

Father's letter is mailed by July 15th.

Responses are collected by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Discernment discussions take place in August.

Contact committees to find out how the welcoming and hospitality value is being implemented. Ask these questions:

1. What has your committee or committee members done to support the Welcoming and Hospitality value?
2. Do you have any further suggestions on how we as a parish can live this value?

Please forward responses to Sharon before the next meeting of the Leadership Planning Group. She will disseminate the information shared with the pastoral council and/or finance council, whichever is appropriate.

### **Fall 2016**

Publish info on, or talk about, the 5 guiding values for the greater parish community. Introduce the Welcoming and Hospitality value to parish. Share specific suggestions as to how we all can live this guiding value.

**Closing Prayer:** Prayer for Discipleship

**Next Stella Maris Leadership Planning Meeting is  
Wednesday, September 7 at 1:00 PM in Baileys Harbor!**