



Stella Maris Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 14, 2016
Baileys Harbor

Call to Order: Michelle Piatek called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Members Present: Michelle Piatek, Sharon Brabson-Secretary Trustee, Paul Liss, Bart Ahern, Rev Dave Ruby, Richard Dannhausen-Treasurer Trustee and Pat Gureski.

Check-In: All shared their personal experiences and wellbeing of the present.

- **Mission Statement:** Read by all in attendance
- **Vision Statement:** Read by all in attendance
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on April 5, 2016 were approved as distributed.
- **Review of Revised Agenda:** Action Items were moved up in the agenda to follow the pastor's report in order to give Richard Dannhausen an opportunity to make his presentation of the 2016-2017 proposed budget.

Opening Prayer – Prayer was shared from the Gospel of Luke 7:36-8:3.

Pastor's Report Fr. Dave shared suggestions on how to make the council effective from a leadership workshop he attended at the Diocese for meetings as recommended by the Diocese.

Fr. Dave shared a draft of a letter to the parishioners he plans to send out in seeking more persons to participate in leadership. Fr. Dave thanked the parish for making a monetary donation for the meal for his anniversary party with a thank you card expressing his deep gratitude.

Action Items:

Self-Evaluation of the Pastoral Council Michelle Piatek asked us to discern how we can recruit people to come to Pastoral Council. We reviewed communal discernment to where we are called to as a growing parish and how to make it to continue to grow.

We need to discuss three or four goals for the Council – A common suggestion is to give advice to the Pastor.

We each spoke to our conception of the Council. Pat Gureski spoke to whether the Council has a set of guidelines by which to function.

Paul Liss stated he has struggled with what the Council has as a guiding role in relation to what the other action groups are doing within the parish. There are parishioners in groups who are doers and prefer to be in action groups whereas they don't see the Pastoral Council as an action group.

Michelle Piatek spoke to that fact that our task here is to respond to the request and direction of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Having people on the Council to make up the membership who are leaders in their personal life to bring their talent and knowledge to the Council.

Dick Dannhausen compared this Council with the Finance Council which deals with concrete issues such as finance and buildings, etc., whereas the pastoral council deals more spiritually to guide the parishioners. One task of the Council might be to help bring non-parishioners back into the church.

Bart Ahern believes our number one mission is to provide counsel to the pastor.

We might be a sounding board for the pastor to be good listeners to his ideas and thoughts.

Be disciples and develop inspired ideas to move the congregation toward Jesus.

Sharon Brabson feels the Council has a role to set policy and develop leadership. We need to listen and evaluate.

If we agree on our goals, then we need to work to meet the goals.

Fr. Dave stated that he needs good advice and we also need to be good listeners and be adaptable. We need to set policy. We need to bring all commissions and committees together. We need to be focused on what is happening in our parish.

Sharon Brabson then asked us to consider how well we are serving the parish. We have discussed a number of times that we need to be good listeners. We need to live our mission.

Bart Ahern stated we have done a good job in developing our mission and vision statements and communicating them to the parish.

Paul Liss mentioned we have adopted the five values through the efforts of the leadership planning committee that formed through the initial efforts of the pastoral council.

Sharon Brabson stated we need to recruit more persons to the Pastoral Council. We need trained people to serve as liaisons to the Council. We need to strengthen the liaison role in order for people to understand how they are relating between their particular committee/commission and the Council.

Fr. Dave stated we need to better explain to the committees/commission how they relate with the Council.

Sharon Brabson suggested a longer range calendar for the Council to direct committee and commission leaders to come to the Council to make reports. We need to develop more social interaction for the parishioners and, we need to develop members spiritually; serve the poor and be a social community.

Michelle Piatek suggested we might just ask people who might want to volunteer to be members of the Council rather than recruit specifically.

Sharon Brabson volunteered to draft a job description for the liaison role. We discussed how we might develop the calendar to have a specific group at the meeting.

Bart Ahern mentioned that perhaps the Council should go to the committees or parish groups instead; as an example he went to a group with the welcoming value and that group visioned it as a reaching out by the Council.

Sharon Brabson emphasized the need to put a calendar together.

Paul Liss suggested to simply have committees or commissions invited to specific meetings to tell us what their activities and needs are. The suggestion was made to have a meeting at the first of the year to have all groups come to briefly outline their activities and tell us their needs. The Council could then decide how their activities meet our mission statement and vision goals. A suggestion of two meetings per year to have the commissions attend. We plan to start this with the September meeting by inviting all the commissions.

The calendar should include the annual meeting with four or five liaison dates, two or three policy dates, leadership and prayer dates. The executive committee will develop the calendar and bring it to the Council. The Council will plan to meet on August 2nd to finalize the calendar prior to planning the September meeting.

Budget Presentation 2016-2017 Richard Dannhausen stated the biggest decision for the Financial Council was to change the software program. Looking at Parish support, it is projected we will exceed budget by 4 percent. It is estimated the 2015-2016 net loss will be approximately \$11,000, which would require support from the investments. Discussion then went to the Capital outlay plan and the projected actual as compared to the budget. Richard also described some of the improvements planning the finance council is developing.

Policy on Use of Stella Maris, Fish Creek social hall

Fr. Dave asked for discussion on requests by groups to make additions to the parish sign at the Fish Creek location, such as the food pantry. The question is what are the signs meant to do and who can change them?

Richard Dannhausen stated moving furniture for events that are not consistent with liturgical scheduling are complicated. The following policy was approved by consensus: **The parish site sign needs to remain solely for the parish site at which site the sign is located.**

Approval of Sister Parish – Stella Maris in Africa The Stella Maris parish in Africa named as such shall become the sister parish of Stella Maris, Norther Door County.

Church Announcement Guidelines The final draft of the guidelines for announcements read at mass was distributed. Approved with amendments to Item 3 and the deletion of No 9. Bart Ahern will provide the final draft of the policy to the parish office.

Discussion Items:

Survey Parishioners Fr. Dave asked the Council to consider a survey to go to the parishioners with two questions: 1) how are we doing with our mission and vision and 2) how are we doing with our leadership. Consensus

was that it may be too soon with these questions as our mission and vision statements as well as leadership efforts are in the early stages.

Leadership Planning Michelle Piatek stated scheduling the leadership planning is becoming a concern as there are conflicts for some of the members to attend the scheduled meetings.

Food Pantry The pantry has evolved in greater proportions than was originally approved. The storage space has become a problem. There needs to be collaboration and better communication between the Christian Service and Responsibility Commission and the sub-committee under which the pantry operates.

Pastoral Council Membership

Training to Evangelize Michelle Piatek spoke to the program Evangelical Catholic presentation that parish leadership experienced. Fr. Dave, Michelle and Sharon spoke highly of the presentation. However there needs to be more research on the subject.

Sign Lighting The Sister Bay and Fish Creek site signs do not have lighting on the signs. Consensus was to have the Finance Council put the lighting on the agenda. Father Dave is anxious to bring all sites in line as this was approved by the Finance Council. Fish Creek is cared for. Sister Bay is a bigger challenge as there is no power to the sign and it would be very expensive to dig ground and provide cable.

Communication

Stewardship Drive Request for Volunteers to make follow up calls – Tom Polacek requested for volunteers for callers to assist in calling for stewardship efforts beginning in July.

The Council extends grateful appreciation and gratitude to Doug VanVorous for completing his Pastoral Council term.

Past Events

- **Leadership Planning Session**, Guiding Value-Welcoming
- **First Holy Communion**, Sister Bay, April 24, 2016
- **Stella Maris Feast Day Celebration**, Sister Bay, Wednesday, May 4, 2016
- **Spring Leadership Gathering**, Green Bay, Tuesday, May 10, 2016
- **Fr Dave Ruby's 25th Ordination Celebration**, Sister Bay, Sunday May 15, 2016
- **Men's Day of Reflection**, Sister Bay, Thursday, May 19, 2016
- **Ladies' Day of Reflection**, Fish Creek, Saturday, May 21, 2016

Coming Events:

- **Strawberry Festival**, Sister Bay, Wednesday, June 22, 2016
- **Leadership Planning Session**, Baileys Harbor, Wednesday, June 29, 2016
- **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday August 2nd.

Meeting Evaluation Paul stated the action items were very productive especially the self-evaluation of the Council we did amongst ourselves was most helpful.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: The meeting closed with an Our Father followed by adjournment at 8:40 PM

Submitted by: Pat Gureski, Secretary