

## Stella Maris Leadership Planning Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2016

**Members Present:** Sharon Brabson-facilitator, Becky Nash, Father Dave Ruby, Bart Ahern, Michelle Piatek, Elaine Mulligan, Peg Berezewski, Monica Mutchler, Jan Liss, Paul Liss, Mary Gomoll, Gary Bies, Linda Cummer, Alice Stollenwerk, Richard Dannhausen.

**Reflection:** The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge (Like 18)

**Future Role of Leadership Team.** Sharon Brabson commented that the Pastoral Council has recommended abandoning the Pastoral Council as it currently exists. The Leadership Group is currently doing much of the work of the Pastoral Council.

A handout of the Pastoral Council expectations was presented. The current recommendation is for the Leadership Team to guide the parish in living out the mission and vision statements. This serves to make communication more direct by eliminating a communication level since the Leadership and Council will be one. This flattening of the organization should improve the coordination of efforts.

Discussion over why the Leadership Team has worked while the Pastoral Council has not. Ideas shared included; The Leadership Team avoids 3<sup>rd</sup> person communication allowing for better coordination of efforts; there is more buy in with the Leadership Team as it includes the committee chairs; to date, Leadership Team is more mission-driven, where the Pastoral Council was more administrative; the Leadership Team is spirit-driven, exciting and something new. The Pastoral Council began after Vatican II. It is recommended that Churches have a Pastoral council but it is not a requirement.

Discernment Process:

1. Elaine Mulligan liked the idea of having representative from all the commissions/committees on the leading team.
2. Paul Liss thought this was a good idea as the Pastoral Council has not been working well and has been unable to get new members. The Leadership Team has adopted the important tasks of the Pastoral Council.
3. Linda Cummer felt it is important to have all groups heard at the highest level.
4. Bart Ahern prays this is a decision of the Spirit and not one born out of frustration. He will support the decision of the group.
5. Monica Mutchler felt we should change if the current methodology is not working.
6. Alice Stollenwerk respected Bart's concern over frustration. However, she sees this as a new way of networking and an opportunity for better understanding and action.
7. Peg Berezewski understood Bart's concern but thought we should "shake the dust off our sandals" and try a new way of doing things.
8. Mary Gomoll felt the Leadership Team was working well
9. Richard Dannhausen agreed that if what we are doing is not working we should try something different. This could lead to a rebirth of the Pastoral Council.
10. Gary Bies felt if the Leadership Team is working it should be used, though thought this should be carefully presented as this change could easily be misinterpreted and cause undue concern.
11. Michelle Piatek stated that the Pastoral Council has tried several approaches. Membership was at first based on site. Then it was based on commission membership. In neither instance was it

able to be totally effective. She felt we need to change to adapt if the Leadership Team is working and it communicates with the parish clearly, we should go with that.

12. Jan Liss felt that we should use the Leadership Team approach as it seems to be working.
13. Father felt we should be careful to not get caught up in the "letter of the law"- if something does not work we should try to adapt. If this does not work, we should try something else.

Sharon and Paul will review the current operating guidelines of the Pastoral Council and make recommendations for changes. Peg and Alice will prepare a plan for communicating to the parish including bullet points for communication to the Parish. Sharon mentioned that we may need to have quarterly meetings to discuss the business of the parish, time for listening to parishioners etc. The Executive Committee will still serve as a filter for the major decisions requiring review by the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team will remain inclusive of all parish leaders. Michelle will prepare an updated list of those people.

### **Response to Father Dave's Letter Asking for Reflection of Parish Mission and Vision Statements**

Father received 8 or 9 direct responses to his letter which were in line with the discernment sessions.

### **Review Summary of August Listening Sessions.**

Forty-four members attended the listening sessions. Pastor Frank offered four consistent themes he observed as he facilitated the sessions: the Parish provided a warm, friendly environment but there is more that can be done; we need to involve the youth better; more parishioners could be involved in the day to day work of the parish; members expressed consistent appreciation for Father.

Sharon commented that almost half the attendees of the session were on the Leadership Team. Jan commented that we could have promoted the listening sessions better. It may be worthwhile to have another larger listening session during the winter. Sharon passed out handout listing the current challenges and opportunities and positive and negative comments made by parishioners. It was felt that the challenges are addressed by our guiding values.

### **Review of Values, Prioritization of Values, and Carrying the Message to the Parish.**

Discussion over whether the mission and vision statements and discipleship prayer should be continued to be read each week at mass. Recommendation to the Worship Commission is to have the mission/vision statements read half of the time and a discipleship prayer read by all parishioners on the other weeks. Mary Gomoll will take this recommendation to the Worship Commission

The group felt that the Mission and Vision Statements along with our guiding values should be posted at all sites, in halls and entry ways. A bookmark (that could be laminated) should be handed out at Church to all parishioners. This would be accompanied by a 5-minute presentation at Mass summarizing the five Guiding Values. At later dates, each value will be individually presented at mass. Monica and Elaine will ask Chris Wehr for assistance in designing the bookmarks. The mission and vision will be on one side of the bookmark with the values on the other.

The hope is that at the Oct 11 Planning day, a timeline for carrying the message to the parish will be developed.

It was suggested that it would be good for commissions/committees to send calendar ahead of the Oct. 11 Leadership Planning Day. Michelle will email all commission/committees about this and will combine all entries into one calendar prior to Oct 11.

### **Announcements**

Michelle noted that a Pastoral Council Congress for pastors and parish leaders will be offered on September 24 at St. Bernard's in Green Bay. Richard noted that navy blue shirts with the Stella Maris Logo will soon be offered for sale.

### **Next Meeting.**

October 11 starting with mass at 8am in Sister Bay. Continental Breakfast will be available after mass.

Respectfully submitted by Jan and Paul Liss