

STELLA MARIS PARISH
Planning Meeting May 8, 2010

Present: Shirley Raasch, Darrel Lautenbach, Mike Fitzgerald, Andrew Nocker, Jim Jauquet, Lee LeVoy, Herbert Mueller, Marilynne Kowalski, Richard Dannhauser, Joe Miller, June Biermeret, Sharon Fitzgerald, Marian Irmen, David Kowalski, Diane Kahlscheuer, Larry Kahlscheuer, Mary Ellen Waldvogel, Father Dave Ruby, Kathy Sedan, Carol Eaton and Mary Seeberg

Moderator: Brother Ray

The day was centered around discernment of where the Holy Spirit is leading us, honoring our past and naming the values the past gave us and never losing them, recognizing where we are today and then moving forward with a vision that has purpose and priorities. The articulation of our vision has to recognize what makes our mission unique. We do have a mission to serve the tourists that come to this area but at the same time it is critical to name our own needs and minister to them.

An area of concern is training of pastoral and finance council members. We need to learn how to work on problems well as a leadership group, discerning what the Spirit is leading us to do not what we want to do as individuals. We need to always truly listen carefully and then to learn the right way of saying things. And it is essential that in our speaking and listening we bring the parishioners of Stella Maris along with us.

We work toward making decisions by consensus. We all have to understand that consensus does not mean that we all agree with the decisions that are made but that the decision is one that all council members can support.

A critical item for the Pastoral and Finance Councils to address is our needs versus our wants. Do our existing buildings serve our needs---yes or no. If not, what should we do. We have to prioritize the issues surrounding our buildings, the costs to deal with these issues and how we will fund work that is done. And this leads directly to an important issue that we face today and that is how decisions are made regarding our finances.

Other issues we want to work on include the staffing of ministries for our different locations. We want to work on a plan to make ministers feel comfortable at different locations.

We have inconsistency of language in the naming of our various locations and groups. We want to look at this issue and get the issue of language resolved.

We want to work on ways to include younger people. We need to have young people on our councils and committees. This is the future of our parish.

The day was marked by thoughtful discussion by caring people who were trying to speak the truth, who want Stella Maris to be a vibrant and caring parish, and who want to bring people together.

At the end of the day the Pastoral and Finance Councils were called into session and adopted the following:

By consensus, on May 8, 2010, the Pastoral and Finance Councils recommend to the pastor that we continue to build Stella Maris as a vibrant parish, and that we continue to serve five ministry sites and the ministry to Washington Island.