

**Saint Mary Parish, Milton**  
**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 20, 2018**

**I. Prayer**

The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. with prayer.

Present: Barry Brandt, Marci Brandt, Ed Butler, Vicki Kersten, Lori Schrank, Pat Starr, Fr. Dave Timmerman, Steve Vicenzi, Mark Warren, Milt Wendler

Excused: Val Crofts, Rod Montanye, Mary Kay Sitter

**II. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

**III. Commission / Committee Reports**

**A. Finance**

Overall, from an operational standpoint, the profit/loss statement is almost exactly as was budgeted and is in good shape. In February a significant loss is shown, but this is from the unrealized investments due to the fluctuations of the stock market and nothing to be concerned about at this time. We received two large donations from non-members and thank you letters have been sent to the contributors. The Offertory Comparison Table shows a slight increase of just over \$100 from last year.

**B. Liturgy**

The discussion regarding the decorations for Lent and Easter continued from last month with further explanation of the chrysalises. Sign-up for liturgy minister volunteers has been ongoing for a few weeks. It's great having Lisa to take the lead with finding ministers for the various masses. American Awards created an engraved plate acknowledging the donors who funded the new Gospel books used at mass – The Belles of St. Mary and The Family of Thomas Elsen. On April 21 during 4:00 p.m. mass Confirmation will be held here; May 6 we will switch mass times with St. Joe's and have First Communion here during 10:30 a.m. mass. June 10 is the mass for graduates.

**C. Buildings and Grounds**

The new sign on Old Hwy 26 has been installed and looks great. We also have arrows pointing toward St. Mary that will be attached to the sign-post once it has been painted. A special thank you to Tony Vicenzi for supplying the materials and transporting the sign here, and Ed Butler and Rick Elbert for taking care of hanging the sign.

**D. Education**

During Lent the elementary children gather by grade with a specific focus: grades K-1 learn prayers, grade 2 learns about sacraments, grade 3 is working with Clarence Lornson to make match stick crosses, grade 4 & 5 learn about the Stations of the Cross and grade 6 is learning about a new country each week through CRS Rice Bowl program.

**E. Interfaith Community Outreach**

Our next co-hosting event with CrossPointe Church for the GIFTS Men's Shelter is May 6-13. A Sign-Up Genius has been created and volunteers are already signing up. On April 28, we are hosting a Kids Against Hunger packaging event at St. Mary. Anticipating needing 300 volunteers and \$7,000 in donations (a much reduced amount) to pay for the food and supplies needed. A Sign-Up Genius will be created for volunteering and Outreach members will make a plea from the pulpit for donations after Easter.

**F. Pastoral Care**

The Widow Support Group continues to meet monthly on the last Tuesday and recently had a new member join. The group was formed three years ago and continues to grow. They now meet at a local restaurant following daily mass.

**IV. Discussion/Decision Items**

- A. St. Mary Cemetery House – Staff reported that the current renter is up-to-date on payments due.

**V. New Business**

- A. New Cemetery Plots – the number of plots available for purchase at St. Mary Cemetery is decreasing, and it may be time to plot out the next section. Staff will get dates from Fr. Dave for potential meeting times and then arrange with Mike Sessler, the land surveyor and our two trustees to discuss.
- B. Dismas – Mark reported that Dismas is reaching out to each parish in Rock County for assistance. The funds for this ministry are very low and they depend entirely on donations to pay for the bibles and workbooks given to inmates who request them. Two members of Dismas will attend the next Pastoral Council meeting and give a presentation on how the funds are used and what is needed.
- C. First Time Homebuyers – Staff was approached by a bank in Janesville to come and give a presentation to our parishioners for potential first time home buyers. At this time, the Council rejected this request.
- D. Listening Devices – a Catholic approached Mark regarding listening devices used in church. This person has hearing aids and has a very difficult time with the sound systems in churches. Currently, St. Mary does have portable listening devices available for use during mass and other services in church. Staff will check into the use and compatibility.

**VI. Task Assignments for Next Meeting on April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

Chair: Mark Warren  
Prayer: Fr. Dave

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.