

Saint Mary Parish, Milton
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2015

I. Prayer

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Dave led us in the prayer.

Present: Julie Armstrong, Ed Butler, Vicki Kersten, Lisa Meyers, Rod Montanye, Lori Schrank, Fr. Dave Timmerman, Steve Vicenzi, Lori Warren, Mark Warren, Ron Yoss

Excused: Gail Slepekis, Pat Starr

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting were approved as written. It was noted that thank you notes were sent to the outgoing members thanking them for their time and service to the parish.

III. Commission / Committee Reports

A. Finance

1. The financial statements for September were reviewed and approved.
2. The Offertory Commitment Report continues to decline with a negative balance of \$11,084. Comments have been made by parishioners to Council members that the Priests for our Future campaign has “soured” parishioners – not with the parish, but with the diocese. Several families are now attending Whitewater. It was noted that most of the time when a family changes churches, they fail to notify the parish office. Before the campaign began, Dockery said that the campaign should increase our contributions. So far we are not seeing this to be so. Third quarter contribution statements will be sent along with a copy of the Offertory Commitment Report.
3. It was suggested to have a Computer Tech company come to assess the parish computer equipment to make recommendations. Staff will contact StarTech this week. The recommendations can then be incorporated into the budget next year.
4. Fr. Dave announced that there were 42 participants on his bus trip. They will share \$3,000 from the profits with St. Mary.

B. Liturgy

1. There was no meeting in October, but they did discuss, via email, the 4 banners with the word “Mercy” that will be hung from the ceiling. The background will be the color of the seasons. It was also discussed to hang similar smaller banners along the back wall in other languages.
2. Christmas decorations this year will include: the crèche with Norfolk pines placed on the altar again, wise men will be used, bows will be placed on exterior lamp posts. Decorations will be simple.

C. Buildings and Grounds

1. Fr. Dave made a comment that the rectory had recently been painted by the Montanye brothers and new blinds installed and it looks great!
2. The funds for a new tractor for the cemetery will come from the cemetery accounts, not the parish.
3. Many comments were made that Fran Swenson is doing a great job with the parish grounds.

D. Education

1. No meeting in September.

E. Interfaith Community Outreach

1. GIFTS Men's Shelter has requested St. Mary provide one meal next Thursday at Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Janesville. The ICOM will handle this since its only one meal. The next scheduled time at CrossPointe will be January 31.
2. GPS / Spiritual Gifts Inventory 1st roll-out will be this weekend. A FlockNote will be sent on Friday and Fr. will announce after mass. There is no commitment and the assessment only takes 20 minutes. The parish laptops and paper copies will be available. Committee members will be available to assist and snacks for participants will be available.

F. Pastoral Care Commission

1. Attendance at the monthly Blood Pressure screening held in the parish center has been declining. Maybe since there are so many locations available now to have your blood pressure checked, that this service is something we no longer need.
2. The Advent Bereavement Service will be December 3 with a social to follow.

IV. Discussion:

1. Harvest Festival – Preliminary results of the Festival were handed out to the Council members. The number of sponsors remained the same as last year, but the dinner sales and income are down slightly from last year. The final numbers will be ready for the next Council meeting. The dinner buffet went well. Diners didn't have to stand in line and they were served right away. Less waste of food!
2. Are you satisfied with your church right now? Fr. Dave put this question to the Council members. Many comments included:
 - We have a lot of parishioners, but only a handful of people to volunteer.
 - Young people are not volunteering
 - Do we need a "Marketing Committee"?
 - Other ways to bring in money besides weekly contributions are needed. Fundraising.
 - Non-denominational/mega-churches are "fun".
 - Outreach gives opportunities to touch and reach out in other ways.
3. Sinatra Dance – ticket were sold at the Harvest Festival. Many people told Lori that they were getting groups together. On Oct 31/Nov 1 Lori will go to St. Joe's to sell tickets after mass. Deadline for buying tickets is Wednesday, November 11. A display ad will be in the Courier on October 29.

V. Task Assignments for Next Meeting on November 17, 2015:

Chair: Mark Warren

Prayer: Fr. Dave

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.