

St. Mary's & St. John's Joint Parish Council Meeting
March 21, 2011, 6:30 PM, St. Mary's

Members Present: Paul Cleveland, Jack Drzewiecki, Dcn. Rick Dvorak, Mike Edwards, Mary Fulton, Bob Gloede, Rollie Hebler, Fr. Tony Ibekwe, John Kiefer, Tom Konetzke, Fr. Paul Paider, Carol Ropella, Steve Siegel, Debbie Spielbauer, Louise Springer, Carol Van Marter, Tom Zelinski, Ray Zielinski

Tri-Parish portion

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Fr. Paul's Report: Father attended welcoming events at all 3 parishes. The tri-parish Holy Week and Easter service schedule has been finalized and published in the bulletins.

Members were invited to take flyers/tickets for St. John's Spring Fest and St. Mary's Brunch.

Tom Skibba (St. Pat's) asked for decision on timing of April meeting since 3rd Monday is during Holy Week. Since this is not in conflict with any Holy Week activity, normal timing will be retained.

Dismissal of St. Patrick's Council

Notes of Meeting of February 2011 were read and approved with the following additions and corrections (motion by Tom Konetzke, second by Ray Zielinski):

- Audience concerns: it was the teaching theme at the faith formation building which was commended.
- Faith Formation: Bishop Banks will be the presenter at the April 13 parent session.
- Business: The Third Street doors will be completed in March.
- Old Business: Tom Konetzke commended the work completed by the KeenAger/convent building committee

Audience Concerns: None

Fr. Paider/Fr. Ibekwe report: Nothing to report

Trustee Report: Nothing to report

Business: (John Kiefer) Don Thiede has retired from his ½-time with benefits position. Plan is to temporarily fill at 10-15 hours/week, while evaluating workload of this position and the 2 full-time maintenance positions (one at each parish). Possibly change to a ¼-time school-year only position, and hire additional summer help for painting, etc. Also evaluating the cemetery maintenance positions in light of a vacancy at St. John's.

St. John's normally sends its pledge/census card mailing in spring; St. Mary's is normally in fall. Fr. Paul has written a cover letter for them, explaining that some of the data is required for a Diocesan-wide database upgrade (scheduled for July implementation). The same spring mailing will be sent to parishioners of both parishes, with a space to designate parish membership.

New Business: Question from co-chairs on system for compiling/publishing agendas. John Kiefer will send draft to co-chairs, who will return input to John prior his to publishing to all participants. Committee members should submit additional potential agenda items to the chairs as they arise.

Debbie reported that St. John's will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2012. A committee will be formed and a first meeting held in April (committee to be solicited through e-mails and bulletin notices).

Old Business: The by-laws committee had been disbanded and the topic temporarily tabled. Paul Cleveland will send the St. John's preliminary draft (which was modeled on St. Mary's) to Mary and John, to be combined with the St. Mary's draft. Ray Zielinski will join the committee in place of Jim Koslowski. All members will have a chance for input. It was agreed to also consider whether or not to combine parish mission statements.

KeenAgers building asbestos removal is complete (approx. \$3500 over estimate due to discovery of additional pipe insulation). The water supply and boiler are shut off. Status updates have appeared in the parish bulletin, and announced at St. John's Mass. Waiting to hear back from Fr. Doerfler on deconsecrating the chapel. Quotes for demolition have been solicited and will be communicated when available.

Social Concerns: (Russ Brumm) Russ resigned today. No action taken to fill position at this time.

Stewardship: (open)

Finance Report: (Mary Fulton) St. Mary's and St. John's to approach TCCES re equalizing funds. We appear to have received reduced funds because of a parish-specific scholarship fund, which monies should not have been considered in distribution of TCCES money.

A committee is working to combine St. Mary/St. John fundraising efforts (example Spring Fest and Spring Brunch in the same month, each trying to sell raffle tickets). One possibility would be one day of an event at one location, with the second day at the other location, on the same weekend, with combined raffles, and splitting the income. This could reduce printing and advertising costs and gain other efficiencies.

Worship: (Rollie Hebler) Tri-parish and Bi-parish committees have coordinated Holy Week and Easter liturgies, and schedule has been published in bulletins (as noted above). Jane Julius is soliciting volunteers for extra roles in Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. Ushers are being solicited for extra Easter Masses.

St. Mary's/St. John's First Communion will be at St. Mary's 10:30 Mass on May 1. Confirmation for all three parishes will be May 21 at St. Mary's.

There will be no "Mass in the Park" this year, but there will be an ordination Mass June 4, and John Christman's First Mass will be the 10:30 June 5 at St. Mary's.

The St. Mary and St. John worship committees are looking to combine, with each member having a defined role/area of emphasis.

Faith Formation: (Debbie Spielbauer) See attached reports for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry ("Family Life" by Tanya Schreiber). Debbie expressed gratitude to council members who attended the parent night session for which we had guaranteed an audience size of 25. She also specially invited council members to attend Bishop Banks' April 13 presentation.

Family Life Event Planner: (Bob Gloede) Looking into a group event and tailgate party at a Timber Rattler's game around Father's Day. Carol Ropella volunteered to represent St. John's in this effort.

Maintenance: (Josh Jackels) Excused, no report.

Marketing and Communications: (Carol Van Marter) Publicized a grief support program and three heart-to-heart parent night events. Upcoming will be St. John's April 1-3 Spring Fest and St. Mary's April 17 Spring Brunch.

TCCES: See attached. Lori Lepper has resigned as a TCCES rep. Although members are all "at large" vs. representing specific parishes, Lori has in essence been representing the three Menasha parishes. Mary Fulton will check the by-laws to see how representatives are selected. Two potential nominee names were given to Paul Cleveland for follow-up. We will request Fr. Paul to discuss with TCCES to ensure Menasha parishes maintain representation. We would wish this representative to also be a member of the parish council.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 Motion by Dcn. Rick Dvorak, second by Carol Ropella.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 18, St. Patrick's.

Respectfully Submitted by: Louise Springer

Attachments

- Faith Formation report
- Family Life Report
- TCCES Meeting Report

**Faith Formation Report
For March 21, 2011 Pastoral Council Meeting**

Our Faith Formation Families celebrated a Reconciliation Prayer Service on February 23, and then were offered the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance. Our estimate is that a between ½ to 2/3 of the students and some of their parents attended this “Lived Faith Experience”. Four priests assisted Father Tony in hearing individual confessions.

Sally and I attended the Diocesan Leadership Day on February 25. The guest speaker was Sr. Ann Rehrauer and she spoke on the upcoming changes to the Mass that will be implemented beginning on the First Sunday of Advent this year.

The 9th and 10th Grade Saturday Retreat was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

Our Confirmation Candidates continue to meet, approximately twice a month on Sunday mornings. Final interviews will be Wednesdays, April 6 and April 11.

Tanya held a special class with our 8th Graders during regular Faith Formation class.

Sally and I attended the Day of Reflection at Monte Alverno in Appleton, sponsored by the ProClaym Professional group that we belong to. Sr. Elise Cholewinski was the retreat Facilitator. Her talk was entitled: “Baptized in Water, Sealed in the Spirit”. This morning of Prayer and Reflection provided us with good “food for thought”.

I updated the Catechetical Certification lesson plans for the March 8th, Catechetical Certification class that Tanya and I lead, from 5:30-9:30. We had 7 participants.

The Ash Wednesday Family Mass was celebrated at St. John’s Church on March 9. It appeared that over ½ of our students and some of their families attended Mass, but roll call will not be taken until March 16th.

Our Menasha/Neenah Adult Faith Formation Committee met here at the Faith Formation Center on March 10. Our Committee will be sponsoring a bus trip to churches named after Our Blessed Mother Mary, around Lake Winnebago. They want to know if we start at St. Mary’s in Menasha, around 9 AM, if there is anyone who would be willing to give a 20-minute tour and presentation about the history of St. Mary’s and anything about the stained glass windows or other interesting trivia. I have offered to lead the tour if no one else can be found. We will also sponsor a “Catholic Update” for the bulletin, about the changes in the Mass that will be implemented in Advent 2011.

Dr. Don Derozier, presented an Adult Faith Formation Lenten Reflection on “Forgiveness”, on Monday March 14. There were 6 adults in attendance.

Special Agent Matthew Joy, from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, will lead his presentation on “Internet Safety”, at our March “Heart-to-Heart Parent Night”. The FF Families, SM/SJ Pastoral Council, St. Mary’s and St. John’s Parishioners, St. Bernard’s Parishioners, the Green Bay Diocese, Seton Catholic Middle School, St. Mary’s Grade School and SMC, were all invited to attend this presentation.

Our last “Heart-to-Heart Parent Night” will be Wednesday, April 13. Bishop Robert Banks will present his thoughts on “Why be Catholic?”. Please support our FF Adult series, by marking your calendars and plan to attend!

There will be no FF class on Wednesday, March 23, for Spring Break.

Father Tony has celebrated Adoration and Benediction @ 7 PM, for the end of two of our class periods. He will also celebrate with the students on Wednesday March 30, Wednesday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 27 – our last class.

Andrew Forster received our “Faithful Student and Family Award” of a family video and Culver’s SCRIP.

Respectfully, *Debbie Spielbauer*

Family Life Report
January and February 2011

Newsletter for Youth and Families

Youth and Family activities through Family Life will continue to be published in a monthly newsletter and sent through email to the schools and hard copy through the faith formation program.

Website updates: We are in the process of updating the "About Us" page on the website and wanted to wait for Fr. Paul's arrival before we published something. We will publish a letter from Fr. when he has the time to draft something.

Winter Escape updates: The Winter Escape went well this year. As far as financials we were about 2k off from last year. We are looking at better ways to manage this event moving forward. John Kiefer, Jean Sell and I will continue discussion on how to include both parish sites in this fundraising event along with the Elementary School. We will strongly look at changing the date and venue to draw in more people and save costs.

Jail Ministries

I met with the Fox Valley Juvenile Jail Ministry team in February at St. Mary's. We meet twice per year (minimum) to discuss how the group is developing and if there are any changes to our visitation schedules with juveniles in the Outagamie Co. Jail. We also take time of course to "minister" to each other and support each other through prayer. This proves to be a challenging ministry as we are dealing with minors and many limitations.

We do however believe the group is a positive influence for the youth.

Wings Support Group

The second divorce support group began to meet in January on Saturday mornings and will continue to meet through February. In the past we've had a waiting list when we publicize a new group developing. Louise and I will be discussing how many groups per year we can run with just the two of us currently as facilitators. We hope (and pray) that the program will continue to reach out to those who need healing.

Grief Support Group

I've reconnected with Joan Spielbauer who is the facilitator for the grief support program. Apparently Dcn. Jerry helped Joan in the past but no one has taken the task of lending support to Joan. Joan and I have a plan going forward that I will make sure advertisements for her group continues on a regular basis, the parish will support her materials needs to continue to grow and I will help coordinate the space she will need for her group. Another support person is needed to help Joan with the group going forward, so I will help her find a qualified person she can train in grief support.

CIA

The CIA group is planning their annual Fish Fry for Faith. I am helping them get posters, and other supplies needed for the dinner. They are a well-organized group and require little on the part of our parish staff. I will continue to work with the group leaders from the parish support level.

Crafting Group

We would like to revitalize a crafting group who meets once per month (at least) through the year working on projects for various parish fundraising and for fellowship. Several parishioners have contacted me with interest and we will be posting crafting dates this spring for all to join.

Open Gym and other Youth Activities

The regular winter/spring open gym continues at St. John's Parish site with about 10 to 16 youth who attend the twice per-month event. We will use this opportunity to continue to build relationships with youth and guide them to serve in the parish community. There are several high school youth who help out and receive service hours for their time.

I will conclude the "Catholic to The Core" class retreat series this spring with the faith formation program. We will be promoting several Diocesan program offerings this summer, Camp Tekawitha, St. Joseph Formation Center (Bailey's Harbor), and the vacation Bible School program at Mount Tabor.

Youth Pilgrimages and Trips

There are two faith building trips again this year the Steubenville North Catholic Faith Conference for high school youth is July 31-Aug2 in St. Paul, MN. We will join the Diocesan group again this summer. Promotion has begun and fundraising is needed for this trip to take place.

A Pilgrimage to the Shrine in Robinsonville is planned for August, 15th on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. This may turn into a family/parish pilgrimage (bus tour) due to the recent approval of the Marian apparitions.

Other parish activity:

Bishops Appeal began in February. Each parish has a poster tracking weekly the progress we make and is visible to all who enter St. John's or St. Mary's parishes.

Updating New Parishioner Packets. I'm in the process of updating new parishioner packets with John K. and will be working on a census for the fall.

Spring Fest: The youth workers will help again this year with the games and with the snack booth at St. John's annual Spring Fest, April 1-3.

Spring Brunch: St. Mary's Spring Brunch planning is underway. We are updating the letters, raffle tickets and sign up sheets for a mailing to go out the week of March 14th.

Respectfully submitted
Tanya M. Schreiber

Hi Jack,

TCCES Mtg

Here are a few notes on the February meeting.

Mike started the meeting on the 2011-12 enrollment numbers. The transition grades have the following enrollment numbers Kindergarten-68, 6th-60, and 9th- 57. The registration process is about 90% complete and we are looking at about 842 students for next year. The goal for next year is 950 and we still have about 10% of families that are not registered. The advancement team is working on contacting the families that are not currently registered to find out what they are planning for next year. Mike talked about the State of the School Address. He was very happy with the increased number of families that attended. There were over 150 families that attend the 3 sessions. Mike reported on the changes to health insurance plan that will go into effect on April 1st. The changes will show an increase of \$160000 next year. The finance committee discussed the option on how to distribute the increased expense and made a recommendation to the board. The finance committee option would cost TCCES \$100255 over the 2011/2012 and cost the employees \$59745 (these numbers are based on the current enrollment plans). Mike had a meeting schedule for February to discuss the changes in the health plan with the employees.

Athletic Committee: No updates

Advancement Committee: The committee will be doing an assessment of St. Gabe's school and report their findings. Zephyrfest is progressing along, letters and raffle tickets have been sent out. The annual fund donations as of February 14 are \$120,416. John Bergstrom is sending out a letter to SMC parents, supporters, and alumni introducing the Mandarin Program and the teacher, Mrs. Champeau.

Governance Committee: Rob informed the board that there are 4 board members whose term is up. Gary Elmer, Peter Schmitz, Michelle Dejno and me. We need to let Rob know are intent as soon as possible.

Finance Committee: The major discussion was the health plan changes and the effect this will have on the budget. The laptop loans are all in place for the sophomores and juniors. Howard Healy and Mike Sullivan are planning to sit down with the 3 pastors once Father Paider gets here in March to discuss the budgetary issues TCCES is facing.

Executive Committee: Bob Anderson advised the board that we need to find someone that Howard Healy can mentor to chair the Finance Committee. Bob informed the board that we really need to promote Zephyrfest. There is some people that normally attend Zephyrfest and for various reasons will not be able to attend this year.

Meg Brew stated the Wines Around the World committee was grateful for the help of the board at the event. The next event is St. Mary's Winter Escape. If anyone can attend please do so. Zephyrfest is May 7th.

Hope this helps.

Thanks,
Lori Lepper