

St. Mark Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes January 22, 2015

Meeting Time: 7pm
Location: The Cenacle

Prayer Leader: Kathy Pierce
Refreshments: Mary Ann Jacobs

Scripture/Prayer

Kathy Pierce

Roll Call – Approval of minutes

In attendance: Father Todd, Deacon Tom, Ben Briggeman, Carolyn Bundy, Lindsey Fischer, Dorothy Glass, Mary Ann Jacobs, Donna Kern, Chris LaFollette, Kathy Pierce and Don Toll. Also present, Sandy Horan-Toll & Lauryn Toll.

Minutes of Dec. 5, 2014 approved/seconded.

Presentation on SPRED (Special Religious Education) – Sandy Horan-Toll & Lauryn Toll presented on the South Deanery SPRED group. There are currently nine Catechists and Seven Friends (those being served). Sandy gave a brief background of SPRED's history nationally, at the Archdiocesan level and at St. Mark. They have 24 meetings a year, half to plan and half with the friends. They are approximately 90 minutes with lesson plans with a scriptural component and a social gathering at the end. The upcoming Inclusion Mass was discussed as was the Diocesan SPRED Dinner-Dance and retreat. The south group is adults and the newest member is 18 and is beginning preparation to have First Communion. The Friends are excited to have the meetings and special events. The Catechists currently involved includes several with education and/or experience which is beneficial in assisting the friends. Funding is provided by the Knights of Columbus via their annual Tootsie Roll sale.

Committee Reports

Social Life – The Dinner Dance, Men's Night Out, and the Catholic Schools Week & Spaghetti Dinner were discussed.

School Commission – Presented by Ben on behalf of Mickey Lentz – The Commission met on January 7th with good attendance. The Commission's plans for a holiday dinner were discussed. Mr. Albertson reported on the new Middle School Religion teacher, Rachel Wichman a graduate of Marian University. He also reported that SMS has a student teacher this semester. ISTEP preparation was also discussed. Super Camp was presented for the end of year program (which will alternate with the Camp Invention program) and the 2015-2016 calendar was presented. An Admission's policy for Pre-K & Kindergarten was discussed as was the activities for Catholic Schools Week. The Chair indicated that she will connect with Rusty and staff about future plans to work towards Blue Ribbon School recognition. The Commission will also review the goals set at the beginning of the year in the Feb. meeting. Initial efforts at reviewing & updating the By-Laws via an ad-hoc group.

Finance Commission – Father reported that December collections raised the year-to-date budgeted collected to the black for the time being. St. Mark has exceeded the monetary goal established by the Archdiocese for the United Catholic Appeal by 23%. Father will request those who have not participated to date this year to do so, even at small amounts, to raise the parish participation rate to meet the goal set by Arch Indy. There was discussion as to the reasons we've exceeded the goal. The Archdiocese exceeded its overall goal, which means these additional funds will be used for parishes and schools of the inner city.

Liturgy Committee – Deacon Tom reported that the training for the various ministries during Advent was well received as were the new trees and the Poinsettia plants. The palms and ashes for Lent are being ordered. He is also working with Dr. Hartman and Dr. Sherman on a presentation for the Lenten season.

Youth Commission – Lindsey presented the information provided by Julie Albertson. They are pleased with the level of participation with the youth choir. There is going to be a Jr. High School Youth Rally at Roncalli on Jan. 31st. It is for 6th-8th grade. High School students help to lead groups. There was a Disciples for Life meeting with twelve St. Mark youth attending on Jan. 21st. It was on the eve of March for Life and featured Bishop Coyne and well known Catholic musician and youth minister Steve Angrisano. The Youth are going to be invited to participate in the upcoming mission trip to Appalachia.

Outreach – Deacon Tom reported that St. Vincent DePaul provided a lot of help during the Christmas season including assistance with medical bills, utilities and other short term needs. The Giving Tree was a success in providing funds to SVdP, HOOPs and families in need.

Spiritual Life – The success of Women’s CRHP weekend was discussed, with 22 ladies participating and 21 discerning to continue on as the next presenting team. There was a Confirmation retreat on January 3rd. The preparation for Confirmation is on-going. The 2nd annual “Cookie Drop” for Simon Brute and St. Meinrad is in the planning stages. St. Mark staff is assisting at St. Roch in the absence of Father Wilmoth. Father Todd is among the Priests filling in at RHS. There will be a Senior retreat at St. Mark on the 23rd. There will be an open house for vocations featuring the Sisters of Providence and Sisters of St. Francis on Feb. 8th. Sister Circle will host a reception afterwards. There is also a monthly meeting and prayer service held at St. Barnabus on the 2nd Monday of the month with holy hour at 7pm.

Communications – The finalized premier edition of News from the Pews was circulated. The Council was very impressed. The 2nd edition is now being put together.

Agenda –

Thank You cards - Lindsey circulated Thank You cards for the group of Burmese gentlemen who cleaned prior to the decoration for Christmas and to Andy Egan for his efforts in putting together the Sacred Sounds concert.

Communications with/between Council & Commissions (and committees) Lindsey and Dorothy presented on the status of the surveys (there are some which have not been returned). Dorothy showed a chart which when finalized will show the reporting structure of the various committees, Councils, Commissions, Parish Staff and other groups. It also shows the working interactions between these groups and also the various activities of the Parish which do not have a formal body responsible. The Council was very impressed with the chart.

Lenten Parish Stewardship – There will be a Parish stewardship appeal during Lent with the emphasis on time & talent. The Council discussed how the chart and work regarding the communications with and between the Parish bodies will be helpful for people to determine areas of interest. Father made a point that it is very important that there is some sort of follow up when someone indicates an interest in a particular Parish activity/group. The Stations of the Cross will continue this year.

Parish Mission Trip Planning – There are eight adults signed up and the trip to Kentucky is also being opened up to youth. The 2nd meeting had more attendance than the first.

Welcome Committee Update – Cathy Jolly is leading this effort and has 8 people working. They are calling new Parishioners and this and the other efforts the Committee are working on would also benefit from the chart showing the various groups in the Parish.

Upcoming Events – Men’s Night Out with Col. Mark Smith, USMC R on 1/23; Dinner Dance on 1/30; Men’s CRHP in Feb; Parish Pilgrimage to Italy (58 people) in March (there are 2 meetings coming up for those participating); Men’s Club Fish Fry events (2/27 & 3/13) and the Inclusion Awareness Mass on 3/15.

Goods/Needs of the Parish – Father applauded the efforts of the Mercy Meals group and the seven Eucharistic Ministers who do home visits to shut-ins. A new book The Idiot’s Guide to Catholicism was discussed. Father Eric Augenstein was an author, he was Baptized at St. Mark and spent most of his youth as a Parishioner at St. Jude.

The issue of if a formal process of providing transportation for those unable to attend St. Mark due to transportation issues was discussed. There will be an investigation as to what might be done in the long term. In the short term, Father pointed out that, the Parish office/staff can work to try to find a ride for someone.

Reminders

Next Meeting – February 26, 2015 the Cenacle

Prayer Leader – Ben Briggeman

Refreshments – Ben Briggeman

Closing Prayer

Kathy Pierce