

St. Mary, Vinton
Pastoral Council Minutes
November 12, 2019

The Heart of Mary Cluster, inspired by the Holy Spirit, provides a welcoming faith community in which we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by the way we live, by our worship together and in serving others.

- I. Present: Rhonda Happel, Cindy Forsyth, Danise Shannon, Stacey Happel, Jeannie Springer, Marcia Reilly, Billy Ollinger, JR Schemmel, Jim Mott
Absent: Melissa Tandy
- II. Prayer: Gospel (Luke 21:5-19); prayers for community
- III. Approval of minutes – September 10th meeting – previously done via e-mail
- IV. Minutes from standing committees:
 - Faith Formation—October 15th
 - Social Justice- October 17th
 - Finance—October 24th
 - Liturgy—November 5th
- V. Additions to agenda: Safety in Worship Places- was presented at the Cedar Rapids library by Ted Beuter. Ted forwarded an FBI video to Marcia that she will share with the group via email to review. Ted suggested that the Knights might be the best group to train re: safety procedures as there would always be at least some KCs at Mass. We also discussed putting locks on at least a couple classrooms that could be looked from the inside. More discussion to follow at our next meeting after everyone has a chance to review the video.

Old Business

- VI. Status of LOWTF giving
Total Pledged: \$1,057,018.13, total received 1,037,243.13, leaving a difference of 19,775.00. 98% of all pledges have been collected. We still have \$169,500 to pay off. The payoff deadline is fiscal year 2023. Jeannie noted that the interest paid on loan in June was \$749.21 and in September with the interest rate increase (from 1.5 to 2%) was \$920.96.

Given that our current checking account balance is only approximately \$11,000, we are suspending the monthly \$1500 debt service from the general account until the balance builds back up to ensure that we have enough cash in the bank to meet our monthly expenses. Council members recommended Marcia put a note in the bulletin re: our cash situation and this decision.
- VII. Building & Grounds
 - Parish Clean Up Day: held the beginning of November.
 - Painting to continue in January. There is still some of the left-over paint and the Knights of Columbus have donated \$200 towards paint as well.

New Business

- VIII. Sanctuary arrangement: The Archbishop has told us that he wants the tabernacle moved out of its current location and into the sanctuary. The group brainstormed some options for rearranging. Marcia will run the ideas past Father Jim. No changes will be made until after the Christmas season.
- IX. Archdiocese One Special Appeal—Time frame: discussion of time frame in the finance meeting suggested doing the 10 week period starting in January of 2021. This time frame cannot align with other events, thus May would not be a good month due to the cluster appeal, graduation, and confirmation. Group was okay with January 2021 time frame
- X. Pew Cards for—
- KCs- the nights would like to place postcards in the pew card holders to promote membership. The group was supportive of this with some stipulations. Discussed making the card more of a book mark size so that the LOWTF envelopes were still visible. Also agreed that it should be for a 3-4-week period only, not year round. Jeannie will forward to the council a copy of the card the KCs have proposed.
 - General Inquiry: At the liturgy committee meeting it was suggested that general inquiry cards be placed in the pews for people to complete if they wish to register in the parish, request a pastoral visit and/or have questions. Talked about these also being bookmark size. Would like to see an example of these as well.
 - Potluck Dinner/Winter Game Day: January 26th
- XI. PLC Report:
- Advent “retreat”- December 8th- Discipleship advent retreat. Should last approximately 2 hours. Adult oriented. To be held in Vinton at 2pm. Will be based on the book *People of the Nativity* with parishioners taking on the roles of various characters in the story.
 - Service Saturday- January 25th- Some families have been seeking out volunteer opportunities. The Social Justice Committee is planning their first Service Saturday to take place at St Vincent de Paul in Cedar Rapids. Families are welcome to attend. Recommended age 10 years and up.
 - Marriage Ministry- Prepare/Enrich and Witness to Love. The marriage preparation process in our cluster will be changing. Prepare/Enrich is an online survey along the lines of the FACET survey that couples have taken in the past. Witness to Love will then be used to round out the preparation process. As part of Witness to Love, couples will choose a mentor couple. The engaged couple and mentor couple will work through a series of videos and a workbook together. It is preferred that the mentor couple has been married for at least 5 years and that it not be a direct family member. Along with these changes, Marcia has asked Dcn. Steve & Deb Ford to take over responsibility for marriage prep in the cluster.

Agenda items for next meeting: please let Cindy know if you have any items.

Next SMV pastoral council meeting: Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 pm