

## Minutes

OLGH Pastoral Council Meeting  
Sunday September 17, 2017 10:30am

Attendance Present: Acklen Banks, Fr. Mike Barrett (Pastor) , Dave Dorgan, Bob Gallagher, Peter Gray, Ed Hubbard, Margie Kaczmarek, Carla Kohlschmidt, Richard Krueger, Mary Muza.

Not present: Aruna Halala, Peg Harloff.

- 1- **Prayer-** The Amazing Parish Prayer led by Acklen Banks.
- 2- **Ice Breaker-** Everyone present chose a random question from a bag related to age. All were asked to give an answer. This was an interesting “getting to know your fellow members” exercise. Since not all questions were chosen, look for this to reappear in the future.
- 3- **Reflection/ Team Exercise-** Parish Scorecard Completion/Review  
This is a continuing exercise to be discussed at each meeting till we complete the list. Then we will decide on where we as a council need to put emphasis. Green means good job, yellow means needs improvement, and red means we need help
  - Topics discussed
  - 1- prayerful liturgies consensus score was green we seem to emphasis this.
  - 2 – social justice – consensus score yellow- it was felt this was similar to human concerns. World focus, participation in it, think global. We can improve.
  - 3- education efforts was determined to be generic and like other categories mentioned- no grade given
  - 4- care for the needy and elderly- score yellow , we do more than we think but could improve. Hurricane relief, individual contributions, transportation for elderly done on a individual basis and thru parish support of interfaith services, Catholic Charities.
  - 5- giving witness to the gospel through faithfulness (ministry) decided this was generic and will be discussed with other upcoming topics. No grade given.
  - 6-generosity – score green. We are improving and considering the parish demographics we are doing well here.
- 4- **Formation-Education.** Facilitators Ed and Carla

## Introduction

The term “cluster” is obsolete! It appears that the archdiocese has adopted new terminology. We were listed in the latest Parish Leader Update as one of the “multi-parish communities” for which names have been approved this year.

## The Past: Thru 2015

We have been engaged with our sister parishes, St. Bernadette and St. Catherine, in a number of ways for several years.

- An early development was the consolidation of the parish schools into Northwest Catholic.
- Another was the consolidation of Christian Formation for youth, i.e., the old CCD program of preparation for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Lorrie Maples is responsible for this ministry.
- Members of the three parishes have come together to address some human concerns matters in common. An example is collaboration with Milwaukee Police District 4 in neighborhood activities.
- We had concerts by Dan Schutte and Jeff Honore to celebrate our shared faith, as well as joint performances by the choirs of the 3 parishes.
- We have had joint Reconciliation services during Advent and Lent.
- Through 2015, the three pastoral councils met jointly a few times a year in sessions that were largely informational or instructive.
- Fathers Mike and Greg and Debbie Hintz (Pastoral Director of St. Catherine) have met periodically.
- Bob Gallagher and his liturgical counterparts have also met periodically.

#### The Recent Past and Present: 2015-2017

In late 2015, the chairs of the three pastoral councils met to discuss how to further advance the efforts to come together. They assumed responsibility for planning the joint council meetings and conducting them as working sessions that would define collaborative actions.

- In their January 2016 meeting, the councils agreed that the archdiocese should be contacted for guidance as to how to come together more effectively, and that an inventory of the three parishes' ministries and programs should be compiled.
- The three chairs compiled the inventory.
- Along with Debbie Hintz, they met with archdiocesan rep Mark Kemmeter, who suggested the formation of a steering committee to oversee the efforts.
- The steering committee – comprised of four individuals from each parish (the pastor or director, one trustee, the pastoral council chair and a staff member – was established and (led by the three PC chairs) met in April to discuss its role. In their May meeting, the councils directed that a letter about the efforts underway, and possible future outcomes, be drafted for simultaneous distribution to the members of all three parishes.
- This letter was completed and distributed in June.
- A logo for the cluster was developed.
- The terms of the St. Bernadette and St. Catherine PC chairs ended in summer. Their successors proved to be less engaged in the process and participated minimally in planning and conducting the fall meetings.

- In their October meeting, the councils discussed adopting a common name for our cluster (as it was then termed) and directed each council to consider the proposed options in November. They further concluded that the parishes should begin worshipping together on certain occasions, in particular on holydays and on holidays such as Memorial Day and July 4, rather than scheduling multiple and redundant Masses that were not well attended.
- At the steering committee meeting in late November, it was reported that the three councils had opted for “Northwest Catholic Parishes” as the cluster’s name. Unfortunately, it was also reported that the “combined worship” proposal had been rejected. The January joint council meeting was then cancelled.
- In January, the archdiocese approved a modified version of the cluster name: Northwest Milwaukee Catholic Parishes.
- In lieu of joint meetings, the pastors and director discussed how to proceed, since other efforts had faltered. At the April steering committee meeting, they had two independent consultants outline a proposal for a one-year effort that would begin later in the year. The committee was about to approve this, on the understanding that it would be discussed further at the joint council meeting scheduled for May. However, when Debbie Hintz announced that she would be on sabbatical from late summer through the end of the year and that St. Catherine would be reluctant to proceed in their absence, the matter was tabled until 2018.
- Joint meetings for the remainder of the year were then cancelled.

Other efforts have continued on other levels:

- Just as we had a tri-parish pre-Lenten mission in 2016, we had a joint Ash Wednesday service in 2017, followed by a joint Reconciliation service on April 1.
- During Lent, the three parishes used the same book as a resource for meditation and discussion.
- Other events are scheduled for later in the year, e.g., Martin Schreiber’s discussion of his book on Sept. 24.

#### The Future: 2017-2020

While we have run into some obstacles in efforts to build our common future, we continue to work with our sister parishes in various ways, especially through the multi-parish community Christian Formation and Human Concerns committees. Joint liturgical events, such as seasonal Reconciliation services, as well as combined choir concerts, are likely to recur, and it has been suggested that members from all three parishes contribute to a common Lenten meditation booklet.

As already noted, joint meetings of pastoral councils, as well as steering committee meetings, have been cancelled for the rest of this year. They may

resume in 2018, although whether in their previous forms remains to be seen.

There is much uncharted territory in our future, and some things will no doubt be out of our control. But through reflection, prayer and a spirit of cooperation, we will come together as church; not the buildings that make up our 3 campuses, but as a community that worships and serves together for the glory of God and not ourselves.

### **Action Items and Committee Reports- Keeping the Council “In the Know”**

- 1- Picnic review and next steps for community building
  - Picnic had 110 – 115 attendees about what the prior cookout had
  - Jimbo did this gratis. Thank you is being sent to him for that.
  - Acklen and Val his wife are interested in holding a quarterly coffee social after mass.
  - November 4-5 there is already a scheduled bereavement social scheduled.
  - October 14-15 there is scheduled to be a presentation to the parish from the pastoral council and the financial council. We will serve coffee then.
- 2- Standing committee updates
  - **Christian Formation Committee by Dave-** See handouts about upcoming events provided by Valerie Adamski.
  - Tuesday October 17 6:15 pm at St. Bernadette’s Parish “A Catholic Perspective on Martin Luther”
  - Tuesday November 14 6:15pm at St. Bernadette’s Parish “A Walk through the Church Year”
  - Tuesday November 28 6:15 pm or Wednesday November 29 10:00 am at St. Bernadette’s Parish “Meeting St. Mark Today An Advent Season Scripture Study” session one
  - Tuesday December 12 6:15 pm or Wednesday December 13 10:00 am at St. Bernadette’s Parish “Meeting St. Mark Today An Advent Season Scripture Study” session two.
  - Lori Maples has her own bible studies which are not coordinated with Valerie Adamski.
  - **Human Concerns Committee by Dave-** committee meeting Tuesday September 19 at 6:30pm at St. Catherine’s parish. Emphasis will be Governor Schreiber’s at St. Bernadette’s Parish Sunday September 24 at 11:30am
  - Human concerns is really a two level process. On the Tri-parish level it is concerned with the farmer’s market and parish nursing. On the OLGH parish level Mary, Acklen, Margie and Dave will meet.
  - Ed suggested that committees report to the parish as well.
  - **Finance council by Dave-** The finance council is preparing a five-year vision for the parish. It is a simple matrix for the health of the parish.

- **Prayer and Worship committee by Richard-** recruitment of greeters and lectors. Advent books set up. Also church decorations transitions since Advent ends December 24. Too quick a turnaround for Christmas.
  - **Stewardship committee by Richard-** Since Richard is on two committees he felt one led into the other.
- 3- **Council visibility** – There will be a speech October 14-15 to the parish from the Pastoral and Finance Council. Fr. Mike gave his observations on the progress of the council. We may have to pair down our expectations due to a lack of staff. Personalities are important. Fr. Mike is working at three parishes now. We need to narrow down the council priorities which we hope to do with the Parish scorecard project.
  - 4- **Meeting evaluation-** What went well? What can we improve? email Mary at [mmuza1@wi.rr.com](mailto:mmuza1@wi.rr.com)
  - 5- **Future meeting Sunday October 15** 10:30am to 12 pm – this will begin after the coffee social. Refreshments :Peg

Meeting adjourned at 12pm