

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2020 6:30 PM
(Virtual Zoom meeting)

Attendees: Katie Biese Oleinic, Father Bill, Elsa Johnson, Nancy Lindo-Drusch, Kim Mettelmann, Tricia Miller, Beth Power, Ted Suess, Angie Van Brocklin, Charlie Voissem

Absent: Adelyn Carney, Annie Guerts, Tracey Van Stippen, Brian Wallace

Opening Prayer

Individual check-ins: members each shared how we are coping during this stressful time, including noting where prayer is needed and offering encouragement to each other.

The St. Mary Annual Report was presented by Theresa Rohm. This is the second year of having a more robust annual report, beyond financials. We are trying to tell the story of St. Mary's, and where we are going for the future. We are at a moment of change, and want to communicate what we are doing. The report is still a work in progress and Theresa will share a next draft when they have it. ***Please review and send any comments.*** The annual meeting at which the report will be presented is Sunday 11th at 11:00, and will include virtual attendance.

The **2019-2020 fiscal year** finished with a net operating loss of 73,576. A 104,000 loan from the PPP program, which should turn into a grant, was a new source of revenue used to minimize the operating loss. Withdrawals from the parish trust and general funds were used to cover the loss. It was noted that St Marys has a great investment fund, which has been a big asset this year. It was also noted that expenses were minimized to the extent possible, including some unfilled staff positions that were not pursued this year.

An update was also provided on the current **2020-2021 fiscal year**. The expected revenue from parish support has been gradually reduced over the last 3 years, in order to try to set expense expectations within the reality of what we are receiving in contributions. This year in particular we are budgeting lower, at 880,000. Mary Ann Otto (a great resource that we have on stewardship and the spirituality of stewardship) and Theresa Rohm will be exploring ways that we can increase financial stewardship, in particular among younger families. It was recognized that 'money follows the mission' and that while financial stewardship is a priority, it goes along with discipleship. Our current initiatives support this (e.g. the annual report, the re-vitalization of the vision / mission, the Beacon Ministries program, etc.).

A discussion was held regarding priorities for technology. Theresa Rohm noted that priorities for the funds from the One by One campaign included updating the Marion Way and Community Room, as well as technology to get people connected. Given the current pandemic, the urgency and importance of the technology is top priority, including improving the livestream, as well as video projections during Mass. A technology committee has been convened to identify and meet these and additional needs, led by Chris Higgins (who has IT experience with virtual learning systems at large universities across the country).

Chris has been meeting with various staff and groups across the parish to conduct a more formal needs assessment, and will present a proposal for the parish leadership. During the meeting he lead a brainstorming session to gather views from the PLC:

- Something to project information during Mass, but not cover up the beauty of our Church
- More videos, podcasts, social media communication from the Church / Father Bill (e.g. Day by Day podcast instead of or in addition to email)
- Be able to segment groups within the Parish and communicate effectively according specific needs (e.g. Course Connection tool). Allow people to participate / get updates based on interest. Also could be used for stewardship.
- Evangelization / discipleship through social media
- St. Mary's App
- A better calendar and event scheduling tool
- By Advent / Christmas: Higher livestream quality
- ***PLC members should pass on additional thoughts and ideas as we have them***

Beacon Ministries update. Father Bill gave an update on the launch of the Beacon Ministries program. Grade 1-5 had an open house, engaging the children to use hands / heads and hearts. Older students will not be able to in-person learning, but an initial Zoom meeting was held on Sunday evening for the middle school age, and it kicked off very well. Very few high school students have signed up, but we see a real need for fellowship during this time and help for coping with the current pandemic. ***There continues to be a need to promote the program, and we should remember that it is designed for everyone - all ages, public and catholic school students, etc.***

Other agenda items. Several agenda items were not discussed during the meeting due to time constraints. ***PLC members should consider the following three points***, and chairperson Beth Power will follow-up by email in the coming weeks:

- Mission/Vision Statement - Timeline and Ideas for rollout
- Advent - Ideas for how to make it special during Covid
- Ideas/plans for next session

Upcoming Events:

- **October 11** - Annual Report Meeting
- **November 3** - Pastoral Leadership Council Meeting