

07/16/20

7:00 PM Trustee meeting for six parishes

Sts. Peter & Paul's Church basement

Present:

Kathy Casey – St. Francis De. Sales - Belgrade

Paul Rooney – St. Francis De. Sales - Belgrade

Bill Frikken – Sts. Peter & Paul's - Elrosa

Alvina Van Drehle – Sts. Peter & Paul's - Elrosa

Tom Miller – St. Alexius – West Union

Mark Klaphake – St. Alexius – West Union

Father Rick

Tony Rooney – St. Donatus - Brooten

Greg Rademacher – St. Donatus - Brooten

Kris Hokanson – St. Paul's – Sauk Centre

Audrey Roering – Our Lady of the Angels – Sauk Centre

Joyce Frericks – Our Lady of the Angels – Sauk Centre

Not Present:

Jamie Hooper – St. Paul's – Sauk Centre

Father Greg started the meeting with a decade of the Rosary.

Father Greg started with an explanation of the Area Catholic Community.

- Father would like us to have a job description for the trustees
- **Shared Expenses** – most pressing
  - In the past St. Pauls, OLA & St. Alexius has done a 3, 2, 1 model. If they are specific to only St. Pauls, OLA we use 2 parts, 1 part. When the formula was made it was made by the number of Masses.
  - In the southern parishes there has not been a formula. They each pay for their own expenses. The priests' salary were alternated by month so each month it rotated as to which church paid for it. The result was one third to each church. The education expenses for faith formation were paid for equally. There is one account to pay for the education expenses.

- Formula – come up with one this evening and look at it again in six months.
  - Examples of how much it would cost each church to split the priest's salaries was distributed to the trustees.
  - Fill in priests are shared expenses
  - Household expenses are shared expenses
  - Kris Hokanson made a motion to use the model of 3,2, 1, 1, 1, 1 – 3 parts St. Pauls, 2 parts OLA, 1 each for the rest. To be reviewed in six months. Second by Tony Rooney
- **Meeting schedules** – Thursdays are going to be meeting nights. This coming year our ACC Leadership Team will meet 11 times each month on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The trustees will be meeting 5 times on some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays. Each finance council will meet 3 times with the pastor present on some of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays.
  - Trustees may come up with Tuesday meetings nights for additional finance council meetings and be sure Father Rick or Father Jeremy can be there.
  - The southern parishes and St. Alexius have been doing about 4 to 6 meetings a year – St. Paul's and OLA a little more.
  - We will do the meetings as scheduled and revisit the finance council schedule at the October trustee meeting.
- **Office staff** from all the parishes have been meeting together. They are beginning to work as a team.
- **Faith Formation** – nothing lined up for the southern three parishes
  - Currently the southern churches alternate grade school and high school on Wednesdays. A religious ed coordinator is needed.
  - St. Alexius has their own faith formation coordinator but coordinates with OL & SP for some items such as Confirmation retreat and other events. They currently have religious education after church on Sunday mornings. The kids are more attentive, more parents help with the teaching, and more families attend Mass.
    - Mass time is always at 8:30 – classes after that.
  - Sauk Centre runs a GIFT program for grades 7 – 10. They must attend with their parents once a month either on Wednesday night or Sunday night. The public school children have classes every Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:00 for 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades do a program called EDGE. A lot of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders from the Holy Family School came even though they were not required to.
    - Sauk Centre has had two full time Faith Formation employees and one part time office person. One of the full- time employees will go part time. A half time person is needed for youth ministry.

- Father Greg suggests that a full-time person be hired half-time for the southern parishes and half-time for the northern parishes. This would not change the budget very much for the northern parishes as they are losing a half-time employee and gaining a half-time employee. The logistics would need to be figured out, but this person could possibly be in Sauk Centre Wednesday afternoon until 5:00 pm and then go to the southern parishes for their evening programs.
  - Would it be possible to have 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> on Sunday mornings and then have the high school kids on every Wednesday? Or could the 1-5 be in Belgrade on Wednesday nights at their usual time?
  - Father Greg will talk to Steph. If Father has faith that the finances are doable he will offer the position to someone who is interested in the position.
- Fundraising
  - There has been talk about the fundraising at some of the churches.
  - Fundraising discourages true stewardship. He does not want us to start doing raffles as fundraisers when they are not community building events. The bishop has said that we are not allowed to serve food at church.
    - Could we possibly hold some of our events off church property.
  - The idea is that we give our gifts to the Lord, not to some designated purpose. Therefore, he would suggest that we trust God and our people. Instead of fundraising events this year we may opt to send letters to parishioners explaining the situation and inviting people to increase their regular contributions.
  - Father Greg will write the letters.
- Fr. Greg explained that the principles he works by when leading parishes, especially the financial stuff. He encourages us to be transparent with each other and with our parishioners. He wants us to be open to ideas as we strive to be fiscally responsible. And he expects unwavering honesty.
- Father Greg thanked the trustees for their leadership in our 6 parish community.