**Minutes of St. Mary Parish Pastoral Council November 14th, 2016**

**Present Members:** Father Tim Sheedy, Mark Sovers, Adam Haluska, Dcn. Holte, Mark Petersen, Alan Wieskamp, June Maiers, Mary Knight, Marianne Harney, Pat Zimmerman, Joe Wilkinson and Jim Luedtka.

**6:38 pm –**President Mark Sovers called the meeting to order. The group read the Mission Statement together.

**6:40 pm – Roll Call -** Mark Petersen

**6:42 pm –** Dcn. Holteled us in prayer and reflection using the new prayer format.

**6:51 pm –** Motion was made to approve the **Minutes from December 5th Work meeting and passed.** Motion was made to approve the agenda for the **January 9th meeting and passed.**

**6:42** – **Discussion** of Spiritual Journey – A Church on the Move

 \*Part One: How a Church on the Move Functions (sec. 16-20) Discussed chapter 16-20, holding off on future chapters until staff catches up.

**6:50 pm – Lightning Round for Commission Report:**

**\*Faith Formation-** Father Tim reported the next Faith Formation K-4 is scheduled for January 15th. Liturgy meeting on the 14th and Finance meeting on the 18th.

**\*Church Life:** Garbage disposal was installed in kitchen. Cookie walk sales were a little lower this year than in previous years, probably because of the price increase from $5/lb to $7/lb. Donna Matthes’ retirement celebration was done Saturday January 7th after the 5:00 PM mass. Was very well attended.

**\*Liturgy, Worship and Prayer:** Report attached. Resisting Happiness book was sent home Sunday to all who volunteered for un-decorating the church. Meeting next week about scheduling software as well as training and recruitment for ministry servers. Data entry for all volunteers will be loaded soon for the software to use, can also notify changes or request substitute.

**\*Family Life:** January 21st 6- 8:30 PM Marriage on Tap is specifically for “empty nesters”, Dcn. Vic DeSloover and Nancy DeSloover will discuss challenges of the empty nest. The Dr. Pranger “Natural Family Planning” discussion was rescheduled due to weather to March 5th from 11:30 – 2:00 PM.

Lindsey will be working with Brandon and Emily Nitcher on developing a Natural Family Planning class for our marriage prep program per the Diocese recommendations.

**\*Music Ministry:** No report.

**\*Social Action:**  Mary Knight reported for Bonnie, encourages more ecumenical services and consider reaching out to the Jewish and Muslim communities. Fisher of Men group has started working with Methodist men on their Saturday morning meetings.

**\*Parish Nurse:** Grief share will start 1/19/17 at 7 pm vs 1/12/17.

We are in need of HBC distributors to join the team. The nursing home list and at home list has been updated again. See attached lists.

The prayer shawl ministry is going very well. Parish members are extremely grateful for the shawls and the message received.

1 referral was made to Home Health

Mercy Medical Center has decreased Parish Nurse hours to 8/wk from the 10/wk allowed. They will be contacting Father. It is part of cuts seen throughout the hospital. It will not change my practice in any way.

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**\*Stewardship:** Work session dedicated to Stewardship in February. Identify chair(s) for committee and next steps.

**\*Knights of Columbus:** Annual youth free throw tournament is January 24th. Could be advertised by Mark Sovers bringing poster or discussing at PE in the coming weeks. Continue to promote the Mens retreat.

**\*Finance Council:** No report.

**7:15 pm – Father Tim’s Report –**Upcoming Activities in the parish: Reconciliation service will be December 14th at 6:30. 3 priests available.

1. Topics Include: Activities in the parish, Parish Book keeper transition and words of wisdom.
* Amy is our new secretary from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Doing a great job.
* Father is leaving for China January 23rd through February 10th.
* Annual Dioceses Appeal was about $2000 short, will go to Finance council. Considering getting a list of names of Parishioners who didn’t contribute this year and send a letter. 2 letters were sent from Diocese but perhaps another letter from the Parish would help.
1. Old church:
* Work to continue with abatement in February, approximately 2 weeks to complete abatement and another 2 weeks for dismantling. Researching the cost and ability to save the steeple.

7:35- **Current Works: Visible and Active Pastoral Council**

1. Discussion: Scheduling of Parish Events

Some examples of annual church events that should be standing on the calendar have been moved at the request of external groups. Father stressed that all church events take precedence over any external group. Chili supper will go on as planned when originally was being considered cancelled due to Boy Scouts.

1. Discussion: Upcoming Men’s and Women’s Retreats

Father stressed the importance of attending the upcoming retreats. Men and women are not required to stay overnight.

1. Participation and representation during Pastoral council meetings

Mark Sovers suggested re-writing Committee Representation and Goals/By-laws to represent current committees. (Stewardship currently isn’t listed)

1. What is next for Stewardship?

February work session topic.

**Parish Whispers-** St. Marys to continue pushing Formed.org. Costs parish about $1000/year. Very good material on the site for all ages.

**7:55 pm- Summary of the pastoral council meeting.** Work session topics identified.

a. Stewardship committee next steps and leadership.

**8:00 pm-** Following the new prayer format, the closing prayer was said by Father Sheedy and the group.

The next meeting will be a Work Session **Monday Febru 13th** in the Adult room.

**8:10 pm-** The meeting was adjourned