

St Maria Goretti
Parish Council Meeting
November 22, 2016

Present: Father Tafadzwa, Kathy Gzybowski, Jeff Peterson, Linda Eckstein, Kevin Streeter, Mary Jean Patterson, Tom Gulley, Frank Peregrine, Patricia Frazak, Ken Brown, Dick Martin, Joe Rausch, & Tom Tierney.

Excused: Msgr. Fr. Burke, Tim Endres, Julie Rae, Rocky Welsing, Peter Worman, Jerome Buhman, John McClure.

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was led by Frank Peregrine.

Administrative and Finances: Father Tafadzwa reported that the budget is on track. Overall we are 2 % ahead of our budget.

Approval of the Minutes: The September and October 2016 council meeting minutes were approved.

Vision of Hope: Joe Rausch reported on The Beloved Retreat. Forty-two people attended and fifteen support staff. All ages were represented. Singles and married couples. The focus was discovering or reclaiming our Belovedness as a son or daughter of God. This was through scripture, rituals, shared stories, and through community. This event was very successful. Follow up monthly gatherings are being considered as well as future retreats. Joe wondered whether there can be some monetary support through the parish. Tom Tierney discussed that this may be considered as a proposal to the finance committee. Adult faith is very active and has several programs coming up. Advent prayer stations will be offered Dec 3-Dec 8. This involves 6-8 simple stations that are simple, provocative and reflective. Joe recommend Nooma videos as they are short and reflective. These videos can be found at the website Nooma.com. Other events include a trip to Guatemala in January, bible studies, Marian prayer stations, Taize prayer events, and Tenebrae. Lighting the Way is coming up in December for women in the parish. Confirmation will be on a Saturday in May.

Book Discussion- We discussed chapter 10 tonight in the book Forming Intentional Disciples called, "Do Tell: The Great Story of Jesus". The goal is to encounter Jesus in a personal way. How do we do this for ourselves and how do we do so for others. Do not assume. What circumstances draw us closer to our faith? Why do we believe what we believe? What is the story of faith? How do we pass on the richness of our living faith? This chapter focused on the 9 acts of his life. We need to meet people where they are at. How do we enrich others through our own experiences? It is the relationships that helps us do this. Most Catholics do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. How much of our faith is because we are raised this way verses learning and developing the relationship with Jesus? We need to slow down and take the time to develop this.

Commission reports:

Worship and prayer- Linda Eckstein reported that the group handed out Advent prayer books this last weekend. They were able to distribute all 200 books. The group discussed that there is likely a need for more books in the future. We will be having a table in the vestibule in January to recruit volunteers for Eucharistic ministers, greeters, lectors and commentators. Sr. Denise is putting advent inserts in the bulletin as well as advent brochures to be available in the vestibule. On January 8, 2017 we will be hosting the diocesan choir entitled Lessons in Carols. This will be a busy weekend for the parish as we also have a pancake breakfast this weekend.

Social Justice and Outreach- Frank Peregrine reported there is no report today.

Stewardship and Development – Jeff reported that the fall pledge drive is over and we are currently reviewing the returns. This is an important campaign for us as it will help us with the budget process. Jeff reported that we went back to the old form and this was much more effective in soliciting pledges. He discussed how we will be having two new parishioner events/lunch in 2017, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Education and Faith Formation- Tom Gulley reported they are looking at the logistics of the Advent stations that will be presented the beginning of Advent. The group reviewed all the stations. This will be a great event for families.

Parish Life- Ken reported that they are reviewing current programs and updating them. They need to reassess these programs. The Christmas Pageant is the next event for the parish followed by Trivia night in the Spring.

Vocations- Kevin Streetar reported that they will bring the Bishop back to discuss vocations in the Spring. They are also looking at bringing back the Traveling chalice programs for people to pray for vocations. The group is looking at updating the website. Eucharistic adoration is being planned for vocations in the near future. They are looking at holding a brunch for high school seniors in preparation for college and how to connect with others of their faith.

Parochial Vicar Update- Father Tafadzwa did not have anything to report today. He thanked everyone for their support while Father Mike has been gone on medical leave. He reported that Father Mike is healing and is getting better. Father reported that the staff has been very helpful. The Bishop has been in contact with Father Mike and is keeping informed of his progress. We will have a change this Christmas with the decorations for the altar. In the past we have had many Christmas trees. Father Mike has previously organized this project and it is getting harder to do this, as all the volunteers are getting older and it is a big feat to get the trees here. Tim Endres is working on an alternative plan for Christmas trees for the altar.

Closing Prayer- Father Tafadzwa closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by,

Linda Eckstein

Parish Council Secretary