

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Ss. John and Paul Parish and Ss. Mary and Patrick Parish held their Common Leadership Night at Notre Dame. Father Marty provided the opening prayer.

Father Marty gave a brief history of the move to merge the two parishes. In April 2015 Bishop Amos told Fathers Steinle and Marty that as of July 2016 Des Moines County would lose a priest. September 30th Father Marty met with Bishop Amos and Father Tony Herold, Vicar General, to update them. Bishop Amos indicated it is not a question of if the two parishes would merge, but when. On October 13 Father Marty met with the regional council president and both parishes' lay directors, and pastoral council presidents. The decision was made to dissolve the Regional Council. Beginning tonight the Common Leadership Night for both parishes will be held the second Thursday of the month at Notre Dame.

Father Marty emphasized that there will not be enough priests in the future to get another priest here. The number of active priests in the Davenport Diocese is changing because tomorrow an active priest in our diocese has to take a leave of absence due to health reasons. Within the next four years, 50% of the priests in the United States will be at age of 70 or higher, and thus retired. We need to be proactive, not reactive.

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 12th at 6:30 PM at Notre Dame. Dan Ebener will be present to facilitate the merger process so Father Marty asked all Commission members to be present. Father Marty stressed we will be one parish with three church buildings.

Father Marty opened the floor for questions. He was asked about the merger process. Dan Ebener, Diocese of Davenport Director of Stewardship and Parish Planning, will take us through listing all the things we do, challenges, sticking points, what each council will look like, the renaming of the parish, etc. Father is meeting with Dan in early December. Father was asked when the process would be completed and he indicated there are two possibilities: July 1, 2017 or December 31, 2017. When we become one parish there will be one PAR group with the 5 commissions, finance council, lay directors, etc. It was suggested that the PAR Coordinators be present for the meeting with Dan Ebener. If there is inclement weather on January 12th, the meeting will be rescheduled. St. Mary's, Dodgeville will remain a mission parish with their own council. In January a timeline for the merger will be presented.

Each of the three parishes are legal entities so SSJP and SSMP will need to be dissolved and reestablished with the corporate board of Bishop, Vicar General, Pastor, and lay directors. Father Marty has to go before the Presbyteral Council. The Bishop has the final say as to the name of the parish, but the name will probably come from here and parishioners will have input. When we become one parish, there will be equal representation by both parishes and equal representation on the finance council. The same people will not be on the finance council or lay directors.

Father Marty was asked to explain why he wasn't shaving or cutting his hair. He challenged the Notre Dame students to raise \$750 for SVDP. The students raised \$929.56, which was presented to SVDP, so he won't shave until December 1st.

Help is needed from each commission for the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass at the Auditorium, which has an attendance of 1300 -1900 people. We have seven Christmas

Masses in the churches. Setup at the Auditorium is Friday, the 23rd at 1:00 PM. It was noted that we are down one priest but the number of Christmas Masses will remain the same as in the past.

Barb Brown and Father Marty will meet with salaried employees due to a revision in overtime regulations by the U.S. Department of Labor that goes into effect December 1st.

Father Marty asked everyone to keep the second graders in their prayers since they make their First Reconciliation next Wednesday night.

Each parishes' commissions met to work on their action plans.

Two-minute verbal reports

A. Community: Cookies, Carols, & Cocoa will have White Elephant Bingo as part of the evening. St. Theresa's Circle will request help from the parish for their cookie sale. The Stewardship Committee will be meeting in December. The Closing of the Holy Door and Vespers is this Sunday. They discussed set up for the Christmas Mass in the Auditorium.

B. Formation: They brainstormed as to how reach groups, such as Catholics who don't come to church every week, and talked about setting up a table at basketball games with Lighthouse Materials, Matthew Kelly materials, etc.

C. Administration: Parishioners are asked to notify Barb to put events on the calendar on the website by Cc:ing Barb if sending a bulletin announcement to Jenny. They discussed the Christmas Eve Mass at the Auditorium.

D. Worship: Father Marty talked about cantering between readings during Advent. Liturgical Ministers will need to be enlisted for the Christmas Mass at the Auditorium. They discussed flowers for the church for Christmas.

E. Outreach: There are 23 families for the Giving Tree and the commission is considering helping them throughout the year. People who are on tags are very needy and there is no duplication of gifts. "You Have Been Blessed" cards will be ordered so parishioners can hand out 1000 in the community with the Des Moines County Catholic Parishes' website listed. The Backpack Program needs people to pack food for kids on Sunday afternoons (3-5) at St. John Hall.

Father Marty indicated if members have not made a donation to the Annual Diocesan Appeal, please do so. St. Mary's, Dodgeville is over their goal for the Appeal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

The SSJP Outreach Commission provided the social with refreshments and cleanup.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Glaser
Ss. John and Paul Parish PAR Coordinator