

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2017

SS. John and Paul Parish and SS. Mary and Patrick Parish held their Common Leadership Night at Notre Dame. Father Marty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the opening prayer.

Father Marty gave an update since the January 12th combined meeting. He met with the Presbyteral Council on January 10. The minutes from the January 12 meeting were submitted. Father met with the Finance Council and the Pastoral Council from each parish and they unanimously agreed to the merger of the two parishes. The results of those votes were given to the Presbyteral Council. Father Marty indicated the merger of the two parishes into one parish with a new name could happen on April 16, which is Easter, or July 1. Comments by commission members indicated it would be easier in July due to selecting a new name, getting checks printed, consolidating the budgets, etc. Other members shared that for people who are hurting, Easter might be a better time. A suggestion was made to select and use the new name by Easter even if the merger is not legally completed at that time. Father Marty will determine which date would be best.

Parishioners have been submitting names for the parish along with a rationale for the name. Suggested names thus far include: St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Mother Teresa, St. Teresa, Des Moines County Catholic Churches, Holy Angels Parish, Church of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Parishes of Notre Dame, Corpus Christi Parish, Prince of Peace Parish, Queen of Peace Parish, Bridge of Faith Catholic Church, All Saints Catholic Church, All Saints, (United) Church of Saints, Transfiguration, Holy Spirit, (Mother) Mary and the Martyrs, Holy Family, St. Elizabeth, All Souls, Divine Mercy, St. Francis, Blessed Apostles, Blessed Trinity, SS. John and Mary, Light to the World, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Queen of Martyrs, Church of the Beloved Disciples, St. Samuel, St. Francis Unity, Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, Our Lady of Good Help, Our Lady of the River, and Holy Trinity. Since the next commission meeting will be held March 9, the cut off date for submission of a parish name will be March 5. The commissions will come to a consensus regarding the name. If that is not possible, three names will be submitted to the parishioners for a vote. When asked how the name will be used, Father Marty indicated we would address it as: Name of the Parish, St. _____ (John, Paul, or Mary and Patrick) Church.

Jenny Cagle has resigned as the administrative assistant at SS. John and Paul. She will not be replaced at this time. Susan Crabb will be editor of the bulletin. Items to be included in the bulletin should be sent to: bulletindmc@gmail.com.

The weekend of February 25 and 26, Father Marty will be speaking at all five Masses in Burlington and West Burlington to address where we have been and where we are going.

Fifty-two commission members were present. Some commissions have parishioners who have dropped out. New members will be added to each commission in July. The like commission from each parish met together, introduced themselves, and began discussing what they are doing.

Two-Minute Verbal Reports

Community Commission: The concern of the commissions is that they need to know in advance what events will be held so they know with what they need help. Both commissions have food call lists. Both community commissions together are planning for these upcoming events: Seder Meal at St. John Hall on April 10; Lenten Soup Suppers at Notre Dame cafeteria March 8 and 15; lunch for the Lenten Retreat April 1; Confirmation reception on April 30, and celebration of the parish name announcement.

Faith Formation: The commissions discussed the various projects on which they are currently working. They would like to initiate a one or two minute presentation before Mass on topics about church teaching or history. They also talked about establishing a children's liturgy during Mass at SS. Mary and Patrick and the related issues.

Worship Commission: The two commissions talked about the ministries they have within their parish. They discussed the possibility of children's liturgy at SS. Mary and Patrick and Stations of the Cross at SS. Mary and Patrick grotto. There was discussion of a Palm Sunday Procession on April 9 from St. Paul Church after 8:00 AM Mass to St. John Church for 10:00 AM Mass.

Outreach Commission: Members of each parish shared what their commission was doing for outreach. The Santa Rosa cookie sale will be held at both parishes this coming weekend. Both parishes call grieving parishioners, visit the sick and homebound, send cards to the homebound, and have "You Are Blessed" cards to share. Questions were raised about who does outreach to young adults to encourage participation since Theology on Tap, the Dominic Club, and support for young adults with children do not exist in our parishes.

Administration Commission: The members of each parish's commission introduced themselves. They discussed the upcoming changes of moving offices, historical records and phone lines. The building and grounds committee and finance council from both parishes need to have joint meetings.

After the Two Minute Verbal Reports Father Marty addressed the commissions. He shared that all offices will be in the SS. Mary and Patrick Parish Center. As for the rectory at SS. Mary and Patrick, some suggestions included using it for offices, meeting rooms, and a guest suite for a visiting priest. The rumor is still circulating that we are closing one church building. Father Marty stressed that we will be one parish with three church buildings. Communication is vital. Father Marty asked that everyone be patient since merging the parishes is new and mistakes will be made. There has been discussion of having one service each day of the Easter Triduum and rotating each service among the three churches. The Easter Mass schedule will be released soon. There will be a Mass in each church on Ash Wednesday.

The next Common Leadership Night is March 9, 6:30 PM at Notre Dame.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnn Glaser
SS. John and Paul PAR Coordinator