

**LIVING WATER CATHOLIC
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2019**

Attendance Pastoral Council: Fr. Scott Euvrard, Meredith Smith, Ruthann Frost, Jennifer Brown, Jon Ayres, Kate Ayres, Claire Brewer, Paul Brewer, Bill Cowie, Matt Hale, Germaine Koomen, Dianne Mills, Ed Mills, Ken Steeves, Joanne Levesque

Members of Hospitality Ministry in attendance: Terry Beecroft, Doreen DesRoches, Carol Casey, Claudette LeBlanc, Ruthann Frost

Opening Prayer distributed by Bill Cowie and read by all, followed by brief introductions by those present.

Dianne Mills then began our meeting with a welcome statement. Fr. Scott indicated he would be away from the parishes from Feb. 4-8. During his absence, Fr. Jack O'Brien will be filling in for him. Fr. Scott also mentioned that Christine McCarthy, our Business Manager, would be leaving Friday, February 1, 2019 to accept a new position. We are grateful for the services she provided to our parishes these past two years.

Terry Beecroft then provided a review of the Hospitality Ministry Parish Pastoral Plan. Copies of this plan were provided.

- **Positive feedback on greeters for Baptisms and Funerals**
- **Coffee, Conversations and Calories (CCC) offered once monthly, except December, July and August. Good feedback as well, as parishioners enjoyed the opportunity to meet and converse with each other.**
- **Hospitality Workshop held in October. Not as many attended from those who had signed up for the original March date, which was postponed due to snow. The workshop did provide good advice on ministry evangelization.**
- **A sample of the Welcome Packet for new parishioners was distributed and received a favorable response. A huge thank you to Christine McCarthy for organizing the information we gathered for this amazing booklet.**
- **Signage: Handicap signs at all three churches were added. Directional signs to buildings added at Holy Family campus. Christine McCarthy worked closely with us and created the new signs. Fr. Scott added that maps are being designed to help with the location of each church.**

Areas of Concern:

- **Leadership. Getting people to become more involved, to take on the responsibility of our initiatives such as greeters at every Mass and CCC. We are looking at families who may want to become greeters.**
- **Bill Cowie suggested a mentoring program to help new parishioners, to tell them what is going on. He would love to be a part of that.**
- **When newcomers register, we could send them an invitation to our regularly scheduled coffee hour.**

- **Coffee Hour at Star of the Sea not a reality yet. Paul and Deb Bernier did indicate a willingness to help.**

Future Plans:

- **Plan to train and commission 50-60 Ministers of Hospitality. Perhaps if parishioners see this happening, they may be more inclined to join. It is worth a phone call to people to sign up. Perhaps more input about the meetings or some night meetings so others can come.**
- **Greeters are to be implemented in stages for Sacramental celebrations, i.e. First Communion, Confirmation and Weddings. Second Step is all Sunday Masses. Third would be other Christmas events. Greeters in parking lot, perhaps various committee greeters, Eucharistic Ministers greeting at Masses they serve and handing out bulletins. Our ushers could greet or the Knights of Columbus at some Masses.**

Disciple Maker Index:

- **Fewer people completed the survey this time, but with greater engagement from those who did respond. Fr. Scott suggested we could have Fr. Paul Soper meet with us to review the results and offer insights into what it means. Note: Fr. Scott did message us on Monday that Fr. Soper will join us at our next meeting on 2/24 to dig deeper into our Disciple Maker Index results.**

Other:

- **Fr. Scott stated that September 1st for handicap accessibility at Star of the Sea Town Church. The Capital Campaign goal has been reached and exceeded expectations. Holy Family Parish is only partially handicapped accessible since our bathrooms are not.**

Crisis in Church:

- **Bishops meeting in Rome Feb. 21-24 regarding the protection of minors in the church worldwide. The US is ahead of the curve and is looking for the next step, but the global response will slow us down. There are places in the world like Haiti where this topic is not on the radar.**
- **Fr. Scott is thinking of having a Novena from Feb. 16-24 for the Bishops in hopes that something good will come out of this meeting in Rome.**
- **Fr. Scott will send us a link about a lay Catholic Grandparents association and possibly establishing a local branch. This association recognizes the increased role they have in the faith. Grandparents coming together for support. (This link is <http://www.catholicgrandparentassociation.org/> Refer to Flock notes to share your thoughts.)**

Closing Prayer provided by Dianne Mills and read by all.

Next Meeting date is February 24, 2019 ~ Opening Prayer: Germaine Koomen, Closing Prayer: Joanne Levesque ~ Hospitality: Bill Cowie and Matt Hale