

SECOND CITYWIDE PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The citywide Pastoral Council, made up of the priests serving the parishes and 5 representatives each from St. John Neumann, St. Joseph, St. Mary and St. William, met on August 20 to share prayer and faith, deepen relationships, study demographic data and review the by-laws.

The council reviewed scatterplots showing where registered parishioners live and other demographic data. The four parishes each draw primarily from the same population, without regard to territorial boundaries. Each parish is truly “citywide.” The parishes also serve people living in near-by cities or villages such as New Berlin, Brookfield, Muskego, Pewaukee, Wales and Delafield. The fact that the registered parishioners from each parish live interspersed with people from the four different parishes was seen as a support for working collaboratively on mission and ministry to evangelize and further the reign of God in the region.

Demographic trends based on US Census data, estimates and projections indicated that the populations in the three zip codes (53186, 53188, 53189), which draw the most parishioners, are stable with a growing Hispanic/Latino population.

In reviewing the by-laws of the citywide Pastoral Council, the members felt that they were workable and understandable given the transition from individual pastoral councils to a citywide Pastoral Council.

The next citywide Pastoral Council meeting will be held on September 17, 2015 where additional parish data will be reviewed along with a tentative mission and vision statement.

ALL PARISH STAFF MEETING

On August 18, an all parish staff meeting was held at St. Mary parish from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thirty-five staff members, including the priests serving the parishes, gathered to share prayer and faith, deepen relationships and continue to plan for on-going and new collaborative efforts. A draft of an employee handbook was also presented and reviewed with a request for feedback.

The staff spent time looking at transition issues: honoring the past; acknowledging the strengths and struggles of the present; dealing with losses and what they needed to let go of; discussing what was deepening or remaining the same; and expressing hopes and dreams for the future. The staff expressed how deeply committed they were to serving the people in all four of the parishes in the Catholic Community of Waukesha and, whenever possible, to work collaboratively to do that.