

8 July 2017 – Catholic Community of Waukesha Pastoral Council Retreat

Attendees:

Cathy Bailey, Chris Brown, Jerry Campbell, Luanne Corcoran, Boni Danner, Dan Domach, Maureen Gallagher, Greg Garland, Flor Gonzalez, Ed Greil, Fr. Howard Haase, Jim Hinchman, Greg Johnson, Marty Larson, Joe Mazza, Susan McNeil, Fr. Jose Nieto, Rob Olejniczak, Dale Sinkula, Jennifer Wall, Ken Walter, Fr. Chuck Wrobel

Notes:

As small groups we discussed the following

As we come together as a Pastoral Council and 4 parishes:

- Looking at our mission statement, values, and vision statement, what are our priorities?
- What are the needs of our community?
- Where are some starting points?
- What are potential challenges?
- Where are opportunities?
- What gifts do we have in our communities?

Highlights from the discussion report-outs include:

- Recruitment and retention of parishoners
 - o need to work on communication
 - o spread the message that church is social justice
- Communication & retention
 - o Stop the bleeding prior to spreading the word
 - o It is not only about communicating, but also listening
- Goal 1 is a great top priority: 'Vibrant and engaging Eucharist celebrations and other prayer opportunities for all'
 - o Although communications is critical for parishoners to engage and for us all the succeed in this goal
- Help parishoners accept / understand the change
- Love and serve all (Vision)
 - o It is so important to have relationships with parishoners, staff, & committees
 - o We need to know who we are advising
- We need to make ourselves relevant
 - o What do we need to understand?
 - o How are staff going to keep / merge traditions of the other parishes? (for example St. Joseph had a monthly letter mailed to parishoners with financial update letters)
- Continue to be more welcoming
- Be supportive of clergy and staff
- We identify with individual parishes, but also stress that we identify with the greater Church
- Communication

- Get the word out so that people have the opportunity to learn what is going on & why
- Consider having a welcoming breakfast (at regular intervals) with all the parishes
- Find ways to be more supportive of Catholic youth
- Consider a press release (to the Freeman, etc.) about our changes

Officer Discernment

Topics that the Council believes will be the main challenges this year:

- communication
- deal with resistance
- seeing the big picture
- need to pray well
- maintain focus on the plan and keeping it up to date

2017-2018 Officers:

Chair: Ken Walter

Vice-Chair: Rob Olejniczak

Secretary: Cathy Bailey