

ACC Agenda – April 9, 2024
7:00–8:30 pm at St. Francis Xavier
Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen
One in Christ -- Area Catholic Community

A. Welcome & [Prayer](#) (7:00-7:10)

1. Intro of attendees
 - Attended: Fr. Tom Knoblach (SH/ANN), Fr. Ron Weyrens (SFX/SS), Dianne Blonigen (SS), Chuck Wocken (ANN), Jason Prigge (ALL), Tom Offerdahl (SFX), Bonnie Dick (Notetaker SH), Althea Heim (SFX), Kurt Stelten (SFX), Chad Braegelmann (SFX), Anita Stoering (SH)
 - Not Present: Jackie Popp (ANN) , Jeanne Barnaby (SF), Shelly Pursley (SH), Dana Howard (ALL)
 - Visitors: Alex Kramer (Youth Ministry SS),

B. [02.13.2024 Minutes](#) Review & Approval (7:10-7:15)

- Chuck Wocken approved
- Althea Heim second it

C. Updates of Committee Work (7:15-7:45)

1. [Discipleship](#) (Jackie Popp)
 - Major point that as a committee want guidance from the ACC council as to what they should be doing and carry it forward.
 - Worked on goals by looking at what other parishes were doing and then had ideas that they wanted to do in their parish.
 - Mike and Julie Gillen got together to fill out charts and then set a time to meet again just the St. Stephen group.
 - Goals...to look at things critically and to find the gaps.
 - Althea mentioned that they broke up into small groups and decided who was in charge and how to fill in the gaps.
 - Discipleship committee talked about possibly moving some of the other committees together since some fell under the same umbrella such as stewardship, hospitality, etc.
2. Young Adult (Jason Prigge)
 - They were meeting on April 11th to talk about Theology on Draft at Tequila Town.
 - Jason explained that when they were exploring for a site to meet they talked to Al Robles who spoke Spanish and helped them get a site discount at Tequila Town.
 - Alex Kramer stated that they are working on the Bishop's Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist and it was going well and they had good attendance which means they may need to order more books with the increased attendance.

- Jason talked about the Baptismal gathering and only 1 couple showed up. Repeated theme is once families get home they do not want to go out again.
- Father Tom had asked Jason what information they thought was useful from the Bishop's pastoral letter.
- One of the big things talked about was the Hallow App by Father Schmitz.
- Father Tom asked how formation connects participants with the parish communities and Jason felt those that attend do feel connected.
- Jason talked about some families who go church shopping and want to feel that they fit into a certain church community.
- Alex talked about Jason's backstory before he came here. In the past, there was a freelance young adult ministry when he wasn't here and then when Jason was hired those in the freelance group caused some drama and were asked to then play a smaller role.
- Kurt Stelton asked, "What are families looking for when shopping for a church?". Jason stated that most are looking for convenience.
- Alex Kramer says that she likes when they have door greeters to make you feel welcome.

3. Worship (Diane Blonigen)

- They haven't had a meeting so nothing new to present
- Father Ron had an idea to do 1 large Easter service for all parishes but too many people for one location.
- Formation activities for the ministers are on the back burner since covid but the Diocese is putting some things together for this with a focus on the spirituality of ministry.

4. Faith Formation (Kurt Stelton)

- 2 goals are Adult formation opportunities and Young Life Process.
- Adult formation goal is to set an activity for October 5th in the evening geared toward adults with an adult speaker, faith story shares and serving light apps and a cash bar.
- Young Life process they are seeking to pilot a Young Life model which the Bishop wants to gear it towards middle school age.
- Jason went to a young life process at the YMCA. The YMCA has a connection with that group and they get a room for free. Another option would be the Sartell community center.
- Jason would like to get a team of young adults together to pilot this program and then put together a video on how to embrace this mission.
- Alex Kramer said to list the events and where they are located so people feel it's not just for specific parishes but for any of them.
- A One in Christ event at Blackberry Ridge location for a social hour with light apps, possible trivia night for all parishes which gets all together for ideas and feedback for future events. Table set up for handouts.
- Jason noted to the ACC council that fine details are sometimes being left out on events such as the dates for Vacation Bible School etc. We need to work together to better communicate fine details before posting.
- Kurt stated that we still need personal contact to get people to show up.

5. Communications (Dana Howard)

- Newsletter is in process

D. Pastoral Council Updates (7:45-8:00)

1. Annunciation (Fr Tom Knoblach)

- We met on February 20th and will meet again in May.
- Father Tom said they will support the goals they adopted from the ACC Council
- Talked about the Bishop's Pastoral letter, the pictorial directory as a means to invite people to be prayer partners in the ACC and the Bishop's visit with the ACC Councils.

2. Sacred Heart (Fr Tom Knoblach)

- They looked back at the 2015/2016 goals when Father Ralph was here and looked at comparing our goals now and how they overlapped and or blended in with the new ACC goals
- Question posed is who are we not reaching
- Goals looking at now are Young Life model, parish nurse, mental health, and building community engagement so people return to ministry.

3. St. Francis Xavier (Fr Ron Weyrens)

- Life of Jesus-Evangelization group

4. St. Stephen (Fr Ron Weyrens)

- Historic Military Convoy stopping on October 5th at St. Stephen.

E. Misc. (8:00-8:30)

1. Structure of future ACC Council meetings (Kurt Stelton)

- Kurt said he really enjoyed meeting all of the committee chairs of the ACC's and gained a good perspective and where they are coming from.
- Kurt thought we are doing well as an ACC and it is refreshing to listen and hear that we are a part of the whole. The growth we see in the churches shows that we are coming together.
- As a whole we seem committed to working together and becoming a bigger part of the ACC.
- One of the major ideas coming from this is a goal of having more people involved and not always the same people. Need to structure that and bring it forward. We need to spread out the help and to get more people to help their parishes.
- Within the ACC's, we don't really know each other on a personal level. An idea to set aside time in the agenda for just ACC members to talk and share. Get to know each other.
- Father Tom stated that we need to personally reach out to people and let them know that their gifts are needed for the church.
- Tom Offerdahl stated that name tags would be helpful to connect faces with names so it seems more personal.
- Father Tom stated that Catholics have a unique opportunity as part of a global Church. That common trait connects us all on a universal level.

2. Next Meeting Tuesday, June 11th at St Stephen

H. Closing [Prayer](#) (8:30)

Opening Prayer

O God of Life,
we seek your guidance
as we face the reality
of transition and change.

Transition is a challenge and can be exciting
as we try to move with foresight into the future.

Change is a challenge to let go.

It takes courage and confidence to move toward a new goal.

Loving God,
give us open minds, kind hearts and clear vision
as together we look to a future in which we can still serve You.
Help us to plan with a “big picture” mentality
to seek diligently and generously
what is in the best interest of all.

May Jesus, our Shepherd and Guide,
lead us in ways that are right and good.

May Mary, Mother of our Church,
encourage our efforts
to listen and learn.

In the words of the prophet Micah,
may we “act justly, love tenderly
and walk humbly with our God.”

Amen.

Closing Prayer

O Spirit of God,
we ask you to help orient all our actions
by your inspirations,
carry them on by your gracious assistance,
that every prayer and work of ours
may always begin from you
and through you be happily ended.

Amen.