

ACC Planning Council
Meeting Minutes - September 7, 2021
7:00 Annunciation Parish
Annunciation, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen
One in Christ -- Area Catholic Committee

In Attendance:

Joan Krause, Fr. Ron Weyrens, Dcn. Joe Kresky, Stef Rothstein, Leonard Popp, Candice Koopmeiners, Jeff Brunn, Shirley Skapanski, Chuck Spychala, Fr. Tom Knoblach, Tom Offerdahl,
Guests: Laura Gorder & Patrick Flynn from the Diocese "ACC Care Team"

Absent: Jean Bemboom, Marie Pangerl

Welcome and Prayer: Stef opened the meeting with prayer and thanked all for being flexible in location of the meeting.

Minutes were reviewed and approved by Fr. Tom, Seconded by Candice

Patrick & Laura introduced themselves and thanked the group for their dedication to the role as ACC members. This is not an easy process, however, both are available to be liaisons between the parishes and diocese. They are here to assist and support wherever needed. They hope to maybe attend a couple meetings a year. They are just a phone call away if there are any questions.

Laura is the administrative assistant for the Offices of Worship and Catholic Education Ministries.
Patrick is the director of the Office of Marriage and Family.

They presented a number of handouts and flyers regarding upcoming events and things that were available to those who wish to become more involved. All members received copies to take back to their parishes to share with staff and parishioners.

Handouts included:

- The Communication Office put together a flyer with some information on ways to stay connected with your congregation
- Save the Date Ministry Day Postcard and information about What's new on the day- October 23 at St. John's
- A Diocesan Directory with contact names and phone numbers
- Information on ACC Diocesan Care Team
- A flyer announcing the Synodal Process will begin some time in October
- A National Eucharistic Revival will begin in June 2022- a two year process
- 2021 Regional Ministry Gatherings flyer
- Bridge-Builders for a Thriving Mission pamphlet

Fr. Tom - Regarding the Synodal Process - who will we hear from?

Patrick - David Fremo is spearheading this. He just received the document today. So this has been discussed and how do we reach out to the right people. Those who may have left the church, why they left, concerns, interests, etc.

Joan - Does the ACC have a role in the DMD?

Laura - Yes you will be asked to play a role in this. Once things are finalized, they will send an email to the ACC committee from us. **Patrick** - In the past the DMD has been more educationally focused. This year the day will be more like a rally type event. More celebratory. Maybe even more fun!

Joan - If we are asked to do something will we know soon?

Laura - It will mostly be getting information from you. Not necessarily anything you will need to prepare for. I wish I knew more, but at this time we are not sure what the rally will look like.

Laura - An additional date to add to the Regional Ministry Gatherings events schedule is October 8th at 1:00 pm. Danielle Zsupan-Jerome will speak. All of these events have been recorded and are on the Diocesan Website if you would like to go back and listen to them

Patrick - Joan was the speaker for the most recent event. It is about 1 to 1-½ hours gathering with a speaker, a small group reflection with questions. It's a way to be encouraged and to learn about our faith.

Laura - You can also look at the Regional Ministry Gatherings on the Diocesan You-tube page as well.

Laura - The Bridge Builders for a Thriving Mission is a grant opportunity. It is a joint venture with the School of Theology. Our ACCs can put together ideas on things they want or may need financial help. If you have questions, you can contact Barbara Sutton. Her information is on the flyer. The application process is quite easy. She will work with you.

Stef - Would you want to be included on emails for our meetings? If we have questions on things that may be new to us, you will be available to maybe walk us through the process?

Laura - Absolutely. If there is a newsletter or anything like that, we would like to be included in the loop. We are here to help.

Before Patrick and Laura left, members introduced themselves.

D. Planning Committee Transitions

Stef. #1 I did include a transition table/timeline in the bylaws. Because we are anticipating December as being our final month on the Committee, January would be the rollover month where we determine which of us want to stay on for one, two or three years, and what that might look like.

Stef. #2 Our Smart Goal Work - Looking at the SMART goals that were submitted and approved, are our work for progress toward achieving them and whether or not we need to do some pivoting. Stewardship and Evangelization were linked.

2.1 Stewardship

Joan - handed out copies of the results and reviewed them with the committee. She attended a Stewardship conference in Wichita in August and really felt we need to reevaluate our initial goal and restate it because the goal of Stewardship is not a 2% increase. That is a measurement. We will be looking at that as to what we have learned from our reading, from the conference, what is the real goal of stewardship and how can it be measured.

Stef - Maybe we can start to ask questions of others as to whether they feel connected, do they feel their talents are being used or how invested are they. There are 35 people registered. 5 from St. Francis, 8 are St. Stephen, 6 are Annunciation and 16 are Sacred Heart. There may be more people to be added.

Joan - To bring together what Stewardship is, the emphasis needs to be on spirituality and growing disciples and bringing people closer to God and on changing hearts. Now how do we measure that? When Stewardship is embraced by the parish, those things happen as a result of it.

Stef - When we first started to look at what this SMART goal should look like, we wanted to be sure the treasure piece was a byproduct. That's why we assessed how many people and volunteers we have and that through education and engagement and encouragement we would see the number of people committing to those increase. It wasn't a 2% focus on money, but that was our way of measuring people and how we are developing disciples.

2.2 Young Adult

Dcn Joe - handed out a copy of goals and what is happening in the Young Adult Ministry. The goal was to hire a Young Adult Minister that would represent all four ACC parishes. An opportunity arose with an opening in that

position. Now Jason Priggee is our Young Adult Minister for the four parishes. He is also the youth minister for Sacred Heart but does collaborate with the other parish. The goal we need to continue to work on is getting representation in each church by either getting committees in each church or representatives that help him to create that presence. Young Adult means many different things. Jason does have a committee at Sacred Heart. They have something called Theology on Draft that meet to talk about theological issues and to support each other. He has reached out to different establishments to have places to meet and where people are comfortable. They may gather together at 5:00 Mass then after Mass go somewhere to eat and have discussion. There may be other activities where they gather at different places to build relationships and community. He has a QR Magnet with upcoming events/Calendar so people can check to see what is happening. He wants to try to speak at Masses at the various parishes. We can also help with just getting the word out to the young adults and encourage them to attend and get involved. If there are parishioners who would like to get involved with young adults and help facilitate the gatherings, etc. please reach out to them. Things are still being worked on to make this ministry grow. Budget for the four parishes. Conversations will need to continue in this area.

Stef - Will all the events that Jason is offered will be on the QR?

Dcn Joe- Yes he does try to keep that up to date. That would also lead toward the website and Facebook. Etc.

2.3 Evangelization

Candice - Handed out the updates.

Shirley - We reviewed our Goals. Dcn. Joe addressed the issue of Baptism Classes for the various parishes. They are taking place on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday with alternating sites. That is now a functioning piece. We also contacted parishioners by phone and got the responses back. We started to read the book Start With Jesus. As we read that, we realized that we are mirroring Stewardship and began to meet as a group.

Candice - Jackie started a list of best resources in Google files. Putting together the Reach Out and Connect we will do that after the workshop. How do we use the information we collected from the letters is the next step. We need to finish the book.

Stef - The comments that were collected, is that somewhere that you can look at? Are they in paper form?

Shirley - I believe that each parish has that information. I know that Jackie has ours.

Dcn. Joe - There were many various responses. Some moved, some just did not respond. Phone numbers were out of date so we were not able to connect that way. There were those who definitely wanted to continue to be involved. Some wanted to get their children back in faith formation because they had been gone for a while. Continual follow-up will be needed to encourage and continue to invite.

Shirley - Asked about the Ecumenical Prayer Service that St. Francis used to have. Sacred Heart joined them one year. Is that something we should look at working on again?

Fr. Ron - Will need to check with the area ministers to see where things are at. Not sure if they are gathering or not. Last year because of Covid, there were things that just couldn't happen. Not only have lost connections but some are new.

Dcn. Joe - Sacred Heart did a number of things with Living Waters Church such as youth events and Thanksgiving services. They too have new ministers and with Covid things have just not been started up. It would be good to reconnect with them as well.

Fr. Tom - This may be a good thing to present to the Sunday event. Will these goals be shared with a larger group? We have tried to reach out in a variety of ways, but for some, this would be new and they may not even be aware of what has been happening?

2.4 Worship/Spirituality

Jeff -The goal was to develop a Mass schedule which has been done.

Leonard - As we go forward, what does this group do?

Fr. Ron - This includes Spirituality also. Fr. Tom has been exploring Parish Mission type of things. We could start to talk about what our high liturgies and what they will look like? Do we have four separate liturgies or do we combine them?

Tom - St. Francis is starting to count attendance weekly instead of just the two times a year that the diocese requests.

Jeff - This may help us to know if we are going forward or backward in attendance. With the Pandemic, everything is very hard to measure.

Fr. Tom - We also keep track of the live stream visits as well. We have talked about doing anointing services in coordination with other parishes rather than duplicating everything.

Leonard - With all this discussion, where does it come together? We need to nail this down.

Jeff - The committee consisted of Chuck, Leonard, myself and Fr. Tim.

Stef - Do we close it off and open it up again when opportunity presents itself? Would you consider this SMART goal to have been successful?

Jeff - I'd say yes. We worked a schedule, we made some changes, we have all adapted some. This may not be the end goal but is a step in the right direction.

Chuck - I think we need to keep this going because once priests start to retire, we will have to start this all over again.

Fr. Tom - Are you suggesting that we have some contingencies if we come down to two priests and one gets sick. Maybe to have several options in place that are pre thought.

Jeff - I think that's a great idea so if and when something happens, we can explain why the decisions were made.

Fr. Tom - We also need a clear way of communicating to the people should there be that last minute emergency and there is now, instead of a Mass for example, we will be having a Word and Communion Service instead.

Stef - Those are pieces that the Worship Committee be proactive of some of these things could become a challenge.

Leonard - Can we make the decision tonight to see who wants to be on the committee?

***Those who agreed to be on the Worship/Spirituality committee are Leonard, Jeff, Chuck, Fr. Tom and Fr. Ron.

Joan - Do we have a Council Member from St. Francis?

Tom - By September we should have someone on board.

Leonard - Would like to meet as a Worship/Spirituality committee in October and meet with Stef.

E. Updates of Committee Work

Stef - We have had much discussion regarding our committee work, so there isn't a real need to go down the list once again.

F. Parish Council Updates

1. **Annunciation** - Meeting September 21st
2. **Sacred Heart** - Met August 18th 9:00

Jeff - Mass was in place at that time. I try to emphasise the importance of supporting the ACC decisions and schedules. They are leaders of our church and they shouldn't leave and complain about decisions that were made. We are doing the best we can. Overall it seems to be well received. We talked about an ACC Pastoral Council.

Fr. Tom - We presented the documents that we are proposing towards that ACC Parish Council and clarifying that the individual Parish Pastoral Councils remain in place but there may be another level. We also talked about Sacred Heart moving to more weekly faith formation programs similar to Mayhew Lake. Last year was kind of a lost year with the distant learning and disruptions with COVID. The people from Liturgy and Music and Faith Formation and Youth Ministry came up with a very creative plan that will dovetail opportunities for involvement in all those levels. And we invited everyone to the September 12 event.

3. **St. Francis Xavier** - Very Quiet - All were invited to the event.

Tom - Talked with members and there are some who are still unhappy about the Mass time that we have. Our strongest parish supporters are those who like the 8:30 Mass time and 9:30 is much too late for them. They are getting used to it however. There is no easy fix. The worst thing we can do is to juggle the

times around. If we get it set, and if we can't fit people in church, then we need to explore further. Continue to invite. Attendance seems to be growing.

4. **St. Stephen** -

Fr. Ron - Talked about the event coming up. The Mass payment thing has been resolved. Chuck is wanting to move on. So we are looking for a replacement. The festival was a success.

5. **Pastor Updates**

Nothing at this time.

G. Parish Mission Update

Fr. Tom - Nothing new to report. Do you want to pursue this now or wait till next Fall 2022 or Lent of 2023? Do you know other resources that may be available?

Tom: SFX Pastoral Minister is trying to reach out to Busted Halos Ministry, there is a Fr. Jim Dryer. He doesn't really do missions, but he does have the skillset to do something similar to that. If we hear anything we will connect with you.

H. ACC Clothing/Hat order possibility

Joan - We have stickers available. We will be handing them out on Sunday. If there is anyone who wants to take them tonight, they are available. There are order forms available for the shirts. Cost is Hats \$12, Shirts \$10, XXL \$11.

Our October meeting will be Tuesday, September 28 at 7:00 pm at St. Stephen

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Closing Prayer

Minutes submitted by Aggie Schulte