

## Pastoral Council Minutes 9-17-19

Members present Terry Atkinson, Steve Schneider, Beth Schneider, Bill Bartel, Claudia Wagner, Linda Kraus, Andy Chuvan Bill Schneider, and Fr. Gary

### Andrea School

Andrea School, marketing and admissions coordinator for St. Lawrence Seminary is attempting to reconnect St. Lawrence with the local communities. She was soliciting ideas from us on opportunities for the boys to interact with the community. Some ideas generated were: to have the boys provide music at some of the masses, fall clean-up for the elderly, work/school with businesses that would involve them in the trades (New Holstein High School has a similar program), involvement with local KC functions such as hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday breakfast, and the Heritage Mass.

### Committee Reports

*Christian Formation:* Dates for upcoming events : Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Living Rosary at St. Mary's ; Jan. 5 –3 Kings Party at Holy Cross before 10:30 Mass; April 1<sup>st</sup>–Living Way of the Cross at St. John's; Week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Vacation Bible School at St. John's.

*Religious Ed* numbers are about the same as last year. There had been some concern because a neighboring pastor had said their enrollment was down by a third.

*Pastoral Care:* This coming year, we will be adding an evening healing service to the morning service. Perhaps, upon evaluation, we may go to alternating morning and evening services.

*Human Concerns:* Instead of doing service during the specified days for the archdiocesan 7 days of service, Sister listed all the outreach the parish does during the year. She said our outreach is fully integrated among the Holyland Parishes. Terry added that the rural food pantries need more volunteers. He said we used to serve 28-30 families and now serve 40-45 with the same number of volunteers.

*Prayer and Worship:* 1<sup>st</sup> Communion will all be on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May. 4:00 @ St. John's , 9:15 @ St. Mary's, and 10:30 @ Holy Cross. 1st Communicants can receive at any of these masses.

### Vacancies on the Council

There are 2 vacancies. We need one member from Marytown to replace Al Casper and one member from Johnsbury to replace Kim Graf.

### Review of Mass Schedule:

Only a few negative comments to report. We'll know more after the October Mass count. "If people want to go to church, they'll go to church." Fr. Gary

### Proposed winter/spring calendar

There will not be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service or Mass for unity with St. Paul UCC since their minister is gone.

All Religious Ed students are asked to attend the 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. John's on Holy Thursday.

The mission, March 9-11<sup>th</sup>, will be at one location this year , Holy Cross. Father is hoping that parishioners will thereby attend more than the one that is given at their home parish. Hospitality and other ministries will be taken care of by alternating parishes.

### Future of the Archdiocese

The Archbishop says that the future is not about closing parishes.

**Pastor's report:** Father added to the cemetery rules that Digging is only permitted by or under the supervision of cemetery personnel and will cost the same. The problem has been that the holes have not always been deep enough and there is a possibility of urn thieves going into cemetery with metal detectors and digging them up.

**Deanery Meeting** on Oct. 12. Claudia is going. Steve Schneider is checking whether he can go.

**Next meeting:** November 19 at St. Mary's, 6:30

submitted by Claudia Wagner