

ACC AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES

Minutes of 21 August 2019 at OLOL JPII Center

Next Meeting: Sept. 10, Thursday, 7 pm Gathering Space, Holy Family

Chair: Bill Kuesel

Attendees: Fr. Ben K and Fr. Jimmy J

St. Stanislaus, Sobieski:	Joyce Borash, Michael Retka;
Holy Family, Belle Prairie:	Darrell Welle
OLOL, Little Falls:	Joe LaForce
Sacred Heart, Flensburg:	Carol Merten
St. James, Randall:	Gail Johnson, Bill Kuesel
St. Mary's, Little Falls:	Brigid Fitzgerald, Jon Radermacher
MOL School:	Mary Sowada, Asst. Principal

Absent: Jessica Brigman, Kaitlin Pohland, Jim Carlson

Jon Radermacher volunteered to fill in the grid in the absence of Kaitlin Pohland.

Minutes of 31 July 2019 meeting approved as corrected. PASSED (Darrell/Joe) last meeting
Continuation of review of Grid Elements within each parish.

STEWARDSHIP: How does our Catholic community call forth the gifts of parishioners and train them for action? Are we using our resources wisely? (facilities, people, financial, programs)

Much discussion surrounded our financials. However, we do not have the numbers to share with each other as they do not finalize till later. Sharing will be done early this fall.

Generally, on the financial side parishioners support the parishes however consensus is that financially we all could do better to support our Catholic parishes. Some have second collections, some do not. Agree that we all give when the need is specifically identified.

Generally, adult giving is declining as elderly numbers decrease. Find that many donations are specifically earmarked as given. While some parishes are running in the black, others are seeing budgets in the red. There are decisions being made/to be made of what areas of parish to fund: staff versus buildings? Concerns shared over how to balance the budgets going forward while maintaining the buildings we have. Parishes have done a varying job of maintaining buildings, some doing catch up on this. Parishes have much substantial fixes/improvements done by volunteers to save money and promote community. And donations of materials. Each parish has a building, some with gathering space, some stand-alone additional building, garages for storage. It works. There is concern going forward of how to continue when we see fewer young parishioners involved.

There are volunteers heading many ministries in some of the parishes. People are resources in many areas of building and maintaining all ministries in the parishes.

School is unique, financially relies on tuition plus subsidy from parishes. Challenges with collection when payment is problem. PSA assoc. doing well which provides funds for things like chrome-books. Policies in place for parents to donate or volunteer during year. Scrip continues to benefit the school, especially with its online app. Should this info be put on front of bulletin?

EVANGELIZATION. How re we reaching the people in our community who need to hear the Good News? Can we explicitly share our own faith?

We evangelize through our schools, PF3 and testimonies there -as it is an outreach to families not always in the Sunday pews. Parents learn and engage when assisting kids with religion homework. REC, TEC, Small groups - Lenten reading groups, Guatemalan project in the past, Unbound, visiting homebound and nursing home parishioners. Look to stewardship - the book Divine Revelation and what it could do for our Catholic life.

Suggestions: keep connection with those who grew up here and have moved away - way to stay in touch a form of evangelization as we assist them in strengthening their faith). The **newsletter** that tri parish sends out. It does remind people of what is going on in parishes - stories, articles short reading. Restrictions on articles - it is not to be the same as a bulletin. **Put stewardship for all 6 parishes under one umbrella** - concrete- engage people in service, build community.

Can hire consultants, i.e., help with newsletter. More discussion on this later.

Be welcoming to new faces in church, new ways to bring those not usually coming weekly, those coming from the margins - jail, immigrants, show them a welcoming parish. How to do this? Find ways to engage youth through activities.

Share our stories.

REMEMBER: the message we give about what ACC is doing needs to be consistent - especially if there are negative comments or information that is wrong. What we can say: "This is a process. Rumors do not help. Plan and decisions, if any, come later. Save your breath by not spreading rumors. Read the minutes available. Ask someone on the ACC committee."

Communication Update: presentations were made at all churches. Contact info of ACC members is out. Clarify to secretaries that minutes need to go out. Remind people of the Link to website and that minutes will be on the website.

NEXT MEETING PRIESTS AND CHAIR AND CO CHAIR WILL MEET TO SET AGENDA FOR MEETING.

Meetings dates held: July 10 Wed. Randall; July 31 Wed. Randall; August 21 Wed. OLOL JJPII Center, next meeting: Sept 10, then Sept.26 Thur. Holy Family

Adjourned. Submitted by Brigid Fitzgerald, Secretary