

HAVEN OF MERCY AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
MINUTES 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

**A. Call to Order**

1.Attendance: Fr. Ben Kociemba, Fr. Mark Botzet

St. Stanislaus, Sobieski: Joyce Borash, Michael Retka  
Sacred Heart, Flensburg: Alan Ringwelski  
St. James, Randall: Bill Kuesel  
Holy Family, Belle Prairie: Darrell Welle, Nicolette Gindele  
OLOL, Little Falls: Michelle Blaine  
St. Mary's, Little Falls: Lori Kneeland, Brigid Fitzgerald  
MOL School: Val Kula

Traditional Latin Mass:

Absent: Fr. Jimmy, Gail Johnson(SJ), Joe LaForce(OLOL), Larry Feldt ( TL)

Visitors: Barb S. Johnson, Diocese

2.Prayer led by Fr. Ben

**B. Recommended Action**

1. Routine Matters

- a. Approval of 26 August 2021 Minutes, moved by Michelle, second Darrell. PASSED.
- b. Approval of Agenda, with one addition, moved by Lori, second Michelle. PASSED

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Fr. Ben and Fr. Jimmy have set up a swap schedule and Fr. Jimmy, as well as other area priests, will be celebrating some school masses.
- b. Communication Strategy Followup: newsletter is going out as we speak to all 6 parishes. Summary of Haven of Mercy news was in the bulletins and this will continue following each H of Mercy meeting as well as noted on fb. We need to establish a dedicated space to leave copies of H of Mercy Minutes at each church, as well as they being available at offices, on website etc.  
Suggestion Boxes 4 of 6 churches have dedicated space for them. St. Mary's will be placed on table in parking lot entrance ( and parishioners reminded of its location) and OLOL will have theirs on Script table in sacristy. Al will check to ensure Sacred Heart, Flensburg has theirs out.

**Members of our committee for each church should remind ushers of the boxes so if asked by parishioners the ushers can direct them to the boxes. Parish Staff can also notify usher leaders.**

- c. Lighthouse : interviews are scheduled with parish employees in coming weeks. We are starting with organizational assessment moving toward the hiring of a business manager by the end of the year.
- d. MOL school Masses and Sunday Masses. Since our school represents all 6 parishes, it would help to spread the word of our school by having MOL students periodically cover some ministries at Sunday Masses at the 6 parishes. Other ideas: 1) once per year take school kids to Mass at each sponsoring parish; 2) Get kids assisting at donuts; 3)ask teachers to be a part of this – so parishioners get to know staff; 4) School and R Ed students could all be involved; 5) Faith formation after Sunday Mass once per month ( ie., Fr Jimmy's church) ; 6) updated servers program; 7) Reach out to home schooling families to participate in school functions ( Band, adoration, etc); 8) Thank you Mass in November post Marathon – students doing ministry(ies) ; 9)set up connection with elder parishioners; 10) Carolling in December Christmas – to our elder parishioner homes by students. Ways for students to show appreciation to sponsoring parishes and for parishes to become more involved with the school.

**Marathon is Friday Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. Spread the word! How to get students to all 6 parishes for donations.**

3. New Business

**United Bulletin:** still needs work, but really can't do much till we get Bus Admin. Also timing issue with contracts – need 1.5 months lead time. **But prior to that we will designate one staff that will be designated person to receive notice of items/events a parish wishes shared with all 6 parishes. The designated staff will send notices received to all parishes timely so they can be included in bulletins. It was suggested there be regular inserts for the bulletins to share this information.**

- a. Diocesan Care Team: Barb S. Johnson talked: they will try to come quarterly to touch base with us. Diocese has people we can use: for retreats, resources for all ACCs (Brenda Kreske, director of Planning, is the person much of this goes through). Barb provided a lot of information including: Brochures and handouts regarding: 1) Diocesan offices contact information and map of all ACCs; 2) 2021 Regional Ministry Gatherings dates and topics (educational ministry days) these are virtual; 3) Bridge Building for a Thriving Mission; 4) Eucharistic Revival info: there will be a plan coming from the Bishops, Barb shared a document that explains National Eucharistic Revival. There will be Synod which will start at diocesan level. Information from Pope Francis; 5) Staying Connected – contact info for diocese, those interested on being part of communication and planning signed up with their emails.
  - i. **Lily Grants** for ACCs from diocese. Maybe some \$ assistance to do retreat at St Johns or elsewhere; maybe several ACCs want to work on same issue/concern. (called and gifted, stringfinders, grief assistance, build community, NFP. Use info from our survey from 2020 to find areas to build other ideas to work on. Maybe get Brenda to talk to us about ideas.
  - ii. **ACC training at St John University** – check out brochure #3.
- b. **Website Design:** Mike reported on meeting he and Jessy had: Jesse suggests being more aggressive with our website design. Consensus seemed to be go to one website. Sites suggested by members had common themes which they will work with. There will be quite a bit of work ensuring all 6 parishes use the same process/procedure for things like Sacraments. **Rollout goal is January**. Jessy will start building the website. The subgroup set up at our last meeting (**Joe, Mike Lori, Michelle, Jessy,**) will review her work as she develops, offering suggestions, assistance. This should move the process faster than always returning to the full H of Mercy committee. Jessy is using Wicks program for the website.
- c. **Haven of Mercy Prayer** for use by all parishes regularly. Motion to approve prayer written by Fr. Jimmy, by Michelle, second by Bill. PASSED This will be prayed weekly RIOR TO Mass – by whomever greets at the beginning of Mass. Michelle will prep the magnet – with Prayer and H of M Logo.
- d. Diocese wishes all ACC go to one council for Haven of Mercy; example would be to use the label committees for the former parish councils The overarching council for the 6 parishes would be a united pastoral council. To help with this new approach, we will check out parishes that have done this; learn more of how to approach this to make it a success.

C. Information and Reports: None

D. Questions by Committee Members: Prior to the Pandemic we decided to do weekly Mass Attendance Counting. It stopped due to the Pandemic. Should we do Mass Count weekly? It can be very distracting. **More time needed to discuss this so put it on next month's agenda.**

E. **Next Meeting, Oct 21, 7 pm at Holy Family**

Submitted by Secretary, Brigid Fitzgerald