

## Tri-Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes February 27, 2017

The February 2017 Pastoral Council Meeting was called to order in the St. Joseph's Olney meeting room. Representatives from the three Parishes in attendance included: Fr. Mark Stec, Fr. Charles Anyaoku, Olney-Herman Zuber, Jeffrey Rosenberg, Mike Dowty, Stacey Steber, Cathy McDowell, Jane Kocher, and Vicki Stuckey; St. Joseph's Stringtown-Beth Kocher, Elmer Ochs, Laura Sterchi, Pat Ellie and Mary Zwilling; Holy Cross Wendelin-Michael Kistner, Carl Will, Henry Kessler, Melissa Buerster, Melissa Weidner, Gail Niebrugge, Sherry Geier.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Fr. Mark Stec. In preparation for the meeting, Fr. Mark requested that all Pastoral Council members read the Introduction and Chapter 1 of the book Rebuilt and to prepare to answer questions concerning the current issues within each individual Parish and as part of the larger Tri-Parish Partnership including: naming the issues; prioritizing the issues; action planning, timelines, and resolution of the matters. Members then separated into previously divided committee groups including: Governance, Faith Formation, Community Life, and Liturgy and Worship for discussion.

After discussion, each committee group reported one-three issues for consideration by the larger group.

### Governance:

- Communication-Printed calendar is shared among Parishes and the websites have been updated and linked. Areas still needing attention:
  - A more efficient method of scheduling events and facilities among Parishes. Recommend- Fr. Mark assign this to a staff member.
  - A merged bulletin. Recommend-Fr. Mark assign this to a staff member. Parishioners need to take note that as this occurs, there will need to be new restrictions on what information individuals can request be placed in the bulletin. Personal "thank you's", announcements, etc. will be eliminated from publication in the weekly bulletin. Parishioner recommendations will be welcomed on how to share this information in the future.
  - Support personnel hired after Fr. Charles Anyaoku is reassigned-Deacon, Pastoral Associate, other as recommended and as Diocesan policies allow. Recommend- Fr. Mark to start placing information/education in the bulletins for Parishioners to learn about this process and possibilities. Also, Pastoral Council requests that Parishioners begin to consider if there are any possible candidates within our existing Parishes before reaching out to outside sources. Governance Committee recommends that the right candidate could receive support through continued education, etc.
  
- Faith Formation-PSR classes have been continuing at all three Parishes with a common curriculum. Current plans for summer Bible School will be as in the past, St. Joseph's Olney will partner with other Olney Churches, Holy Cross Wendelin will host a program, and St. Joseph's Stringtown will be invited to the programs at the other two sites and not host their own. Issues to consider:

- Smaller PSR classes at St. Joseph's Olney and St. Joseph's Stringtown-Consider if instruction is effective with very small classes, especially for Confirmation classes
  - Distance between the Parishes make it difficult to combine PSR classes
  - Leadership for each individual site (CRE/DRE) is currently being maintained.
  - There will be a Lenten Sunday Series of instruction/programs provided beginning on March 12 through April 2, 2017. Parishioners will receive details via the bulletin.
  - Michael Mette will provide a family event/concert on July 2, 2017. "Michael James Mette is a Catholic singer/songwriter and speaker from St. Louis, Missouri, who travels the country, inspiring people to better know, love, and serve God."
- Community Life-acceptance that we are now acting as one Priest with three Parishes. The Priest will not be able to attend all events at all Parishes. Issues to consider:
    - Feast Day of St. Joseph is planned for March 20, 2017 at St. Joseph's Parish Olney. Parishioners should check the bulletin for details.
    - This group also discussed scheduling events among the three Parishes and the advantages of a shared calendar for events and venues.
- Liturgy and Worship-noted that most masses are well-attended. Parishioners are placing envelopes for their own Parish in the collection for whichever site attended. Fr. Mark delivers envelopes to the appropriate Parish throughout the week. Issues to consider:
    - Mass schedule-beginning May 7, an adjusted schedule will be implemented. Saturday masses will be held at 4:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Olney and 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Stringtown. Sunday morning masses will be held at 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's Olney and 10:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Wendelin. Parishioners are encouraged to begin giving feedback in May and June 2017. This schedule will be re-evaluated in June/July 2017 by the joint Pastoral Council.
    - Memorial Day masses will be held at each Parish on a rotational basis. 2017-Holy Cross Wendelin, 2018-St. Joseph's Olney, 2019- St. Joseph's Stringtown.
    - First Communion will be held at each Parish the Sunday after Easter. Times for the masses will be: 8:00 a.m.-St. Joseph's Stringtown, 10:00 a.m.-Holy Cross Wendelin, 12:00 a.m.- St. Joseph's Olney. Fr. Mark Stec will preside over the First Communion masses. Fr. Charles Anyaoku will preside over a mass earlier in the morning at St. Joseph's Olney. Time for this additional mass will be published in the bulletin.
    - A "Vocation" contact has been appointed from each Parish Council. Names will be submitted to Belleville as requested.

The next Tri-Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on June 5, 2017 in Olney. The next Pastoral Council meetings for individual Parishes will be held on March 13, 2017 in Wendelin, March 14, 2017 in Stringtown, and March 27, 2017 in Olney.

Pastoral Council members should reach Chapter 2 of the book Rebuilt before the next Joint Pastoral Council meeting in June.