

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish  
Worship Commission  
Minutes of Meeting November 15, 2016

**Members Present:** Lois Latzy (Chair), Paul Von Erden, Beth Brink, Mike Gardner, Michelle Meyer, Christine Guerin, Adriana Inman, Corey Moore, Dawn Mansour, Susan Maddox

**Members Absent:** Darlene Lewis

**Ex Officio Present:** Jeremy Helmes (Pastoral Associate) and John Stengel (Recording Sec.)

**Ex Officio Absent:** Fr. Geoff Drew (Pastor)

- I. Opening Prayer/Praying for Each Other – Lois opened at 7:01PM
- II. Discussion of Chapter 3 of Lazarus at the Table
  - A. To what extent does our society reflect or not reflect Catholic social teaching on the common good?
    - i. Society wants to take us away from our Catholic teachings. Relativism, the media and Hollywood are taking us down a bad path away from our teachings.
    - ii. Family is an endangered species.
      1. Many threats to marriage.
      2. Little subtle things are robbing us of valuable family time. We can be in a lot of good places, but if it keeps us away from being together as a family it is not good.
      3. Lois related a story from Lakota where she found only a small percentage of students said they sit down together at a family dinner.
      4. Marriage between a man and a woman. Definitions of marriage are being changed.
      5. Not everything legal is right and not everything that is wrong is illegal.
      6. Even in Catholic schools you have teachers who are not teaching Catholic values.
      7. Living together is not a step toward marriage and it seems so pervasive now.
      8. Sad that both parents need to work so children may seldom see both parents together at the same time.
      9. Children can be at day care or away from home for extended periods of time and are being influenced by other people, not their parents.
  - B. What does this statement say to you: "People have a right to be involved in decision making processes that affect their lives"?
    1. We do have opportunities to participate in the "decision making" process by signing petitions, voicing our opinions at local government meetings, and running for local offices.
    2. Times when it seems we cannot participate in the process. Examples: Bakers forced to provide for gay marriages, and the legal problems of the Little Sisters of the Poor.
    3. We have the responsibility to follow the law.
- III. Presentation by Stephen Ministry – Chuck Michael
  - A. Overview – state of the ministry. An update on the work of Stephen Ministry at St. Max.
    1. Ministry founded in 1975 in St Louis by a Lutheran pastor. He came up with a program of lay ministers to help serve the needs of the members of his church.
    2. Non-denominational. Worldwide in over 12,000 congregations.
    3. Started at St. Max in 2013. Have trained 40 ministers. 30+ are still active. Fr. Jim and Deacon Mike Hinger have gone through the training. Deacon John Back and Holly Moran brought the program to St. Max.
    4. Have ministered to 90+ parishioners.
    5. The ministers will listen and help people who are not comfortable with things in their life. No concern is considered too large or too small. Ministers are there to just listen and show Christ in their lives. Ministers are there to walk side by side with them.
    6. Holy Spirit driven for ministers. There is an interview process for those considering becoming a Stephen Minister and all are not accepted into the program. Some have been redirected to other ministries.
    7. Once accepted there is 50 hours of training required. St. Max has joined with five other churches to form a network to provide training. St. Max will be hosting training in 2017.

8. Fr. Geoff is a big supporter of the program. He sees many talents at St. Max that can be used in the ministry. Fr. Geoff will often recommend people to Stephen Ministry for additional support with issues they are facing.
9. Stephen Ministry is asking all councils and commissions for prayers and to keep eyes and ears open for those who may need the ministry.
10. Ministry is built upon confidentiality. Matches are made between the ministers and those who need help and only two in the ministry know the individuals being helped.
11. If an individual's difficulty is too much they are referred to professionals with the proper training. Will not take on anything dangerous.
12. Boundaries are setup so that ministers and those receiving care understand the limits.
13. Five ministers and two leaders were commissioned in September.
14. Ministry does it's best to keep it Catholic based. Commitment is to our parish first, but the ministry has assisted other churches.
15. Fr. Geoff insisted that everything is done by the book and not to take any shortcuts.
16. The parish supports the ministry with prayers and commissioning.

IV. Kathy Hinger – speaking on the upcoming parish mission.

- A. The mission will be April 24-26th, 2017.
- B. The E&C team has been exploring different options for the mission.
- C. A dozen people viewed video of different speakers from around the country.
- D. The consensus was a mission to reach out to unengaged parishioners.
- E. It was decided to have Renewal Ministries, out of Detroit, conduct the mission.
  - i. Their primary focus is evangelization.
  - ii. Team of 3 speakers will be presenting at the mission.
    1. Peter Herbeck – host on TV of “Crossing the Goal”.
    2. Sister Ann Shields – well known retreat speaker.
    3. A young adult will speak on the 3<sup>rd</sup> night.
- F. Renewal Ministries says the typical mission does not work because it is focused on those who are already engaged. They use a three-pronged approach.
  - i. Training on January 21<sup>st</sup> 1-4pm for those interested in learning how to reach out to people who do not come to church.
  - ii. The mission.
  - iii. After the mission – an aftercare program to nurture those who participated in the mission.
    1. A model is in place sponsored by the Archdioceses called Evangelical Catholic to start small groups to walk with people on their faith journey.
- G. Starting tomorrow the E&C team and staff will be on a conference call to work out how this model is going to work.
- H. Pre-work and post work for the mission should be very productive.
- I. Primary focus on those we are not getting to and are unengaged, but anyone will benefit.
- J. May do a preaching series during lent to prepare for the mission.
- K. Looking for help to put on the mission.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from October 25, 2016.

- A. Minutes approved with one change.

VI. Pastoral Associate Report

- A. The annual count of Mass attendance was done in October, and was down 4% over the last year and down 8% over last five years. The annual count helps in planning for the number of bulletins, amount of bread to put out, etc.
- B. The new coordinator for altar servers is Vanessa Brown.
- C. There are 3,107 families in the parish and around 12,000 people. Maybe only about one half to two thirds of the registered parishioners are engaged in some way during the year, Christmas, Easter, Festival, Fish Fry, etc. The most engaged are only about one third of the registered parishioners. As in most parishes, there is no exit process from the parish.
- D. Dawn asked about giving people more advanced notice of the dates of the Holy Days for the year.

VII. Sneak Preview of Advent/Christmas

- A. Lois passed out the Liturgical Evaluation tool so members have it before the start of Advent.
- B. Jeremy asking everyone to start thinking now about evaluating the liturgy for Advent and Christmas. The feedback is very important.

- C. Post cards will be mailed again to our parishioners with an invitation to come for Christmas. This year the parish will also print special invitation cards to give to parishioners to in turn invite others, who may not come on a regular basis, as a personal invitation to come to our parish Christmas Eve and Christmas.

## VIII. Continuing Business/Projects

- A. Discussion and Recommendations: Section 2 of Fr. Geoff's Observations
  - i. Lois gathered recommendations
    - 1. Hiatus between membership terms
      - a. WC recommendation is that it is important to allow space for new people to serve, but we do not want to discourage people from serving who want to serve.
    - 2. Common "secretarial timeline" for each group
      - a. Let the council and commission secretaries decide what is feasible.
      - b. Online approval of minutes would be cumbersome with too much back and forth.
      - c. Minutes are available on the website.
    - 3. Agenda for meetings
      - a. WC tries to have agenda out two weeks before a meeting and handouts one week before the meeting. This is working well.
    - 4. Calendar for praying for other groups
      - a. This is already in the Chapel.
    - 5. Annual review of council and commission mission statements and by-laws
      - a. WC consensus is that they should be reviewed annually.
    - 6. Leadership Training
      - a. Difficult to implement.
      - b. There could be better training, but the parish seems to be doing well now.
  - ii. Council and Commission gatherings
    - 1. Each group should do their own thing.
- B. Ministry Luncheon Planning: January 29<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm
  - i. Lois, Mike and Michelle will plan strategy as a group.
- C. Christmas Party Planning: January 7<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 7:30pm.
  - i. Bring an appetizer to share

## IX. New Business

- A. Leadership roundtable report – Lois
  - i. Talked about the parish mission training.
  - ii. E&C discussed gifts for the parish.
  - iii. New Health and Wellness ministry has started
  - iv. Sarah is working on revamping website
    - 1. Look at pages and decide changes.
    - 2. Jeremy will be meeting to discuss WC portion of the website.
  - v. Budgeting should be an ongoing thing.
  - vi. Day of reflection will be August 26<sup>th</sup>
- B. Items related to WC from November PC Meeting – Lois attended meeting
  - i. Bulletins are still an issue. People say they cannot find the bulletins after Mass.
  - ii. Fundraiser for the women for hair products.
  - iii. Discussion of naming rooms on the campus.
    - 1. Franciscan, Marian, Polish Saint's names are all possibilities.
  - iv. Stewardship renewal timing.
  - v. Technology committee for the parish was discussed.
    - 1. No committee overseeing the technology that is needed for the parish.
    - 2. Concerns about cyber security. Our network is very locked down.
  - vi. Suggested that the office be open during lunch.
  - vii. Drive down the debt envelopes will end in March.
  - viii. Discussion of school subsidies.
- C. Leadership Discernment Volunteers
  - i. Yvette Schnegg is Chairing
  - ii. WC needs two on the committee to help people during the discernment process.
  - iii. Jeremy suggesting 1<sup>st</sup> year members might be a good fit.

- iv. Meetings start in January to give shape to the process.
- v. Adriana and Dawn volunteered.

D. Preliminary Budgetary ideas

- i. Jeremy can just increase budget 2-3%.
- ii. What Jeremy would rather do is ask WC members to think about what we could do if we had all the money we wanted to do whatever we want.
  - 1. Ask for the world.
  - 2. PC will make final decision.
  - 3. Example: Jeremy wonders what it would be like if we hired a qualified sound technician.
- iii. By March Jeremy needs a draft on the WC budget for the PC. Discussion of the budget at the January meeting so that he can have a draft for approval at the February WC meeting.
- iv. Needs to be focused on WC items.
- v. How are we going to better accomplish our mission should be the starting point for thinking about the budget for next year.
- vi. WC should think big picture under Worship and Sacraments – What are we trying to accomplish?
- vii. Jeremy encourages members to think about it and come up with big ideas and think outside the box.

X. Ministry leaders will start to get stewardship emails in the next week

- A. Only 200 envelopes have been turned in to office.
- B. There will be a second mailing to those who have not turned in their envelope.
- C. Jeremy thinks by the end of the year we should have 600-700.

XI. Closing Reflection - most councils using these questions

- A. What have we done tonight to draw people closer to the Lord?
  - i. The way we approach the budget.
  - ii. Personal invitations to both the mission and Christmas Mass.
  - iii. Input on how often people can serve on council and commissions.
  - iv. Kathy talking about the mission.
  - v. Discussion from the book was very good.
- B. What have we done tonight to help engage parishioners?
  - i. The discussion of the new Health ministry, technology committee, Stephen Ministry, these can all help engage parishioners.
- C. Jeremy closed with a prayer of thanksgiving.

XII. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Stengel, *Ex Officio* (Secretary)