

St. Joseph the Worker **Cluster Pastoral Council Minutes** – Thursday, October 29, 2015

Fr. Brokman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and it opened with an Our Father.

Present: Fr. Jim Brokman, Jerad Trainor, & Dee Youngblut from Immaculate Conception, Kurt Wood & Elaine Reicks from St. Francis, Chris Grapes & Bonnie Patrick from Holy Name, & Mary Hemeseth from St. Peter and Mike Yauk from the Cluster Faith Formation Commission.

Absent: Damien Matt from St. Peter.

Pastors Report: Fr. Jim reported that all is going well and that we are running at full speed.

Approval of Minutes: Kurt Wood motioned the approval of the minutes, seconded by Dee Youngblut. Motion passed.

Finance Council Report: Fr. explained the finances for September – October and reported that everything was pretty well on track.

Faith Formation Commission Report: Mike Yauk gave the Faith Formation Report. He reported that Immaculate Conception has 99 students enrolled in Faith Formation, Holy Name has 50 families with multiple students enrolled, St. Francis has 35 students enrolled and St. Peter has 58 students enrolled.

St. Peter had Bible Camp & Reading Camp in August and both were said to have went well.

The recent confirmation retreat at UNI was also said to have went well and that the students came back very positive.

Children's Liturgy has begun at all parishes.

Faith Formation is using a program called Decision Point this year for confirmation classes. There are area books as well as DVDs and it is working well for the students. They are able to watch the DVD and have class discussion which seems to be helping to keep the students involved.

NCYC has raised over \$20,000 for the trip that will take place November 19th with the group returning on Sunday, November 22nd.

Mike Yauk is once again teaching RCIA for those who desire to become Catholic. There are 2 candidates so far this year. They meet every Sunday at 9:00 am at St. Francis before the 10:30 am Mass.

We now have a cluster faith formation handbook in hopes of bringing more consistency throughout the cluster. Included are discipline policies, paper work to enroll students, weather policies, etc.

The date for First Communion for 2016 will be May 1st in Fayette. On May 8th the children will be introduced and celebrated in their own parish.

Confirmation for 2016 will be September 23rd 2016 at 2 pm with the site to be announced at a later date.

Liturgy: 2016 Cluster Mission - Agnes Day (a group of musicians from Waterloo metro area) will perform a concert at Holy Name in West Union on either February 21st or February 28th.

Social Justice: Mary Hemeseth reported that 250 layettes and a truck load of walkers and wheelchairs were sent out. Our parishes are getting ready for the Christmas gift trees. They will be set up in late November.

Year of Mercy: The Pope has designated The Year of the Mercy to begin on December 8th. Fr. Jim had an idea that the Social Justice would dedicate each month to some kind of activity involving mercy. He explained that the women at the detention center in West Union showed an interest in having a Bible Study. The question also arose about what we are going to do to feed the hungry.

Fr. Jim's Evaluation: There were 70 evaluations received. Fr. Jim gave the evaluations to Chris Grapes and she entered the scores and comments into a database. Once the comments were entered it showed that some of the concerns of parishioners were Fr. Jim's lack of availability to parishioners, a desire for him to show a greater interest in lives of parishioners, and the need for him to demonstrate a greater level of sensitivity and understanding of where people are. In general, there is a common sentiment that Fr. Jim could do a better job connecting with the people he aims to serve. Fr. Jim was applauded for doing the evaluation and recognized for lots of good things too.

October Count Data: Fr. Jim explained the October Count Data from this year compared to previous years (2008-2015).

Other Business: A town hall type meeting has been scheduled by Archbishop Jackels for December 3rd from 6 -7:30 pm. His purpose is to clarify his pastoral priorities. Parishioners from Calmar, Festina, Spillville, Ossian, Fayette, West Union, Clermont, Sumner, & Cresco will be invited to attend.

The St. Francis Finance Meeting has been changed from December 3rd to December 10th.

Next meeting: January 28th, 7:00 pm at St. Francis of Assis, Fayette.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with a Hail Mary for people who are struggling knowing God's love.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Jacob