

St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

January 10, 2018

In Attendance:

Arsenault, Sr. Mae	Carey, Pat	Johnson, Kayla
Beyea, Dianne	Carvell, Trinda	McGrath, Lawrence
Burns, Fr. Owen	Connors, Michele	Stroud, Anne
Brown, Sandra	Glasgow, Mary Alice	

Absent:

Doherty, Bob	Ellis, Wendy	Howe, Marilyn
Isaacs, Denise	MacDonald, Mike	

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Carey at 7pm.

The opening prayer was led by Dianne Beyea.

Andrea MacLean Holohan, Coordinator of the Newcomers Ministry at St. Mark's, updated Council about this ministry. Andrea provided the following information:

1. Andrea is currently the only member of this ministry. She has been involved for about three years. In 2000, there were eleven people participating in this ministry, five regular members and six who acted as relief members. Because of the number of members, the parish was divided into a number of areas for the purposes of coverage.
2. The Newcomers Ministry is in need of additional members. During the summer, Andrea spends time at her cottage. Currently, Dianne covers when Andrea is unavailable.
3. When a new parishioner/family registers with the parish office, Dianne notifies Andrea. Andrea then makes contact via phone, and arranges a home visit, if possible.
4. Those who register are given a copy of the blue booklet, *St. Mark's Catholic Church*. Andrea noted that this booklet provides thirty-three options for new parishioners to volunteer, and some ministries listed are no longer active. Council advised Andrea that it is our intention to replace the booklet.
5. Andrea stated that no budget is provided for the Newcomers Ministry. A small budget would allow her to take a welcome gift, such as a fruit basket, when she visits a new parishioner.
6. Only three families have registered during the time that Andrea has been involved in the Newcomers Ministry.

A discussion followed Andrea's presentation. Council was especially interested in the process of identifying new parishioners, as more than three new families have begun attending St. Mark's during the past three years. Dianne and Andrea explained that only three families completed the official registration form for the office; others have been identified when they requested donation envelopes or registered children for Religious Education. On behalf of Council, Pat thanked Andrea for her presentation, and for her service in the Newcomers Ministry.

The minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), were approved on a motion by Trinda Carvell, and seconded by Lawrence McGrath.

Minutes by Anne Stroud.

St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

1. **Revision of Parish Information Booklet:** Next Steps for Bookmark: Council decided to carry this item forward to our February meeting. Bishop Harris will release his decision regarding the diocesan re-alignment in late January, so we are unable to finalize the information on the bookmark until that time. A discussion followed regarding the need to identify and welcome new parishioners. Trinda spoke about the importance of this. Other comments/information by members included:
 - a) Registration forms are located next to boxes of envelopes on the table in the foyer.
 - b) Dianne uses a program in the office which lists parishioners, and others, who are entitled to tax receipts.
 - c) A notice requesting that new parishioners register with the office appears at intervals in the church bulletin.
 - d) Anne stated that there were two issues to be addressed: the creation of a "Welcome Team" and a plan to ensure that our bookmark (or whatever type of information booklet or card we choose to adopt) is visible and conveniently located.
 - e) Kayla suggested that we consider holding a welcome event after mass, with information packages and gifts for new parishioners.
 - f) Fr. Burns asked Council to consider why we want to identify new people. What are we looking for, and what do we have to offer?
 - g) Mary Alice stated that we all should be willing to welcome those who may be new to our parish.
 - h) Trinda stated that we should have a protocol to follow when we meet a newcomer. If we can identify their talents/interests, we can put them in touch with the appropriate ministries.
 - i) Kayla suggested that networking events could be useful, and Michelle suggested that we also look at other ways to welcome those who are not comfortable mingling.
 - j) Trinda mentioned Fr. Don Breen's practice of welcoming visitors and new parishioners at mass.
 - k) Michele felt that it is important to have multiple methods of welcoming people.
 - l) Fr. Burns stated that because we are not a really large parish, we should all be able to get to know others who attend St. Mark's.
 - m) Michele stated that ministries may not be as rich as they could be. She asked: "Are they taking us in the right direction?" Pat commented that we need to grow some ministries.
 - n) Fr. Burns referred Council to our mission statement: "From three communities and beyond called into one...".
 - o) Sandra suggested that the Alpha program can provide answers for our questions.
2. **Appointment of a second youth member to PPC:** This item was also deferred until our February meeting. If the diocesan re-alignment results in the amalgamation of St. Mark's Parish with another parish, or parishes, then Parish Councils will be dissolved and new elections will be held; therefore, it is not prudent to approach a potential youth member at this time.
3. **Sea Dogs Faith and Family Night:** Update: Kayla: Kayla placed a notice about this event in the bulletin. Fourteen parishioners have registered to date, mostly adults. Tickets may be reserved until January 17. St. Mark's will purchase the tickets, then the Sea Dogs will donate \$5 back to the parish.
4. **Alpha Program:** Update: Fr. Burns: Twelve to fourteen parishioners have been approached to train for Alpha beginning in February. We will run Alpha in concert with St. Joseph's Parish. Fr. Burns and Wendy will lead the initial training using a series of videos. It is hoped that many of those trained will then be willing to act as leaders when the Alpha Program is offered to all our parishioners. After that, the program could be offered to non-parishioners, as well.

St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

New Business:

1. **Date and time of February PPC meeting:** Our next Council meeting would normally be held on February 14. As this is both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, Council decided to hold our meeting on February 21 at 7pm instead.
2. **Diocesan Catechist Retreat:** This event, "Who Am I Called to Be?", will be held at Villa Madonna from January 26-28. It will be led by Fr. Burns. In the past, \$50 of the cost has been reimbursed by our parish to each parishioner who attends. Mary Alice circulated a poster. Pat has added this event to our parish website.
3. **Family Day:** Kayla is planning an event for Family Day, February 19 at St. Mark's. Fr. Burns suggested that a family board game afternoon be offered. Council thought that this was an excellent idea. The Men of St. Mark's have offered to provide pizza at 4pm that day. Kayla will organize and advertise the event.

Updates re: Parish Ministries:

1. **Peru Committee:** Anne: Upcoming initiatives by the Peru Committee include a quilt raffle, a February 10 concert by The Mark' Men, and a "Postcards for Peru" Lenten project, which will start on the weekend of February 17/18. (Note: the concert was cancelled on January 11.)
2. **Lights, Camera, Faith:** Anne: Three sessions are planned during Lent: February 25, March 4 and March 11. Sessions consist of a scripture reading, a movie and discussion over a potluck meal. This year's theme is "You shall not commit adultery". Sessions are led by Bill Stroud.
3. **Catholic Women's League:** Anne read the following e-mail from CWL president Ellen Robart:

"St. Mark's Parish will be the host parish for the upcoming 2018 World Day of Prayer (for the Kennebecasis Valley area). "The World day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who welcome all people to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday of March." This year's ecumenical service will be held on Friday March 2nd at Saint Mark's Church (time to be announced). I am inviting a member of the parish council to serve on our organizing committee."

Anne also shared some facts about the South American country of Suriname. The program for this year was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname. The theme is "All God's creation is very good."

Divine Renovation: PPC members discussed the material in Chapter 5 of the book.

The meeting was called to a close by Pat Carey.

The closing prayer was led by Trinda Carvell.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 7pm in Room 1.

Opening prayer to be led by Fr. Burns.

Closing prayer to be led by Dianne Beyea.

Minutes by Anne Stroud.