

Grow Our Faith Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 13, 2019

Location: St Anthony Parish

Time: 6:00 p.m

Attendees: Sharon Adler, Roberta Braml, Mary DeFoe, Mary Frietag, Greg Montgomery, Crystal Montgomery, Val Kohn, Elaine Ricci, Dave Ricci, Deacon Greg Ricci, Greg Montgomery, Angela Schug, Gordon Weber, , Mary Vinopal, Dave Husby, Barb Lynch

Absent Members / Ministry Leaders: Victoria Brenna, Jerry Pich, Catherine Hoffman, Allison Lutz, Louis Muench, Cara, Konor, & Valkyra Pasko, Kathy Epple, Andrea Olson, Cindy Williams, Lucas Hanson, Jack Sullivan

1. Opening Prayer
2. Rich Curran, from Parish Success Group, joined us and shared the following documents with the group in order to get us all on the same page so we can plan into the future for our church.
 - a. **What Commandments did Jesus give us?** – this is background instruction directly from bible from Jesus and the apostles on how to live the mission of the church.
 - b. **Insights for the 21st Century Catholic Ministry** – these are samples from Church documents on how to live the mission of the church.
3. Rich facilitated the group through this week's reading from Paul to the Corinthians. We discussed in small groups the gifts we see in the Holy Spirit and the spiritual gifts God has given us to share with others.
4. Rich reviewed our Chart of Ministries and Mary shared the documents from the committees prior work on the ideas collected from the GOFC Session held in January.
 - a. Background:
 - i. Mary DeFoe, Victoria Brenna and Valerie Kahn conducted interviews with ministry leaders from all 3 parishes.
 - ii. This chart was created Elaine Ricci and Mary DeFoe from the template provided by Rich Curran after the interviews were completed.
 - iii. In March, 2019, the GOFC reviewed, categorized and prioritized the ideas that were collected at the Jan. parish session.
 - b. Rich observations on the documents:
 - i. He explained that the categories on the chart were designed to address all areas of focus to create a healthy spiritual life (Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Social Justice, Leadership, Pastoral Care, Prayer & Worship)
 - ii. He walked us through the chart to discuss gaps in what we're doing in our parishes today.
 - iii. He discussed that Catholics are not good at sharing their encounters with Christ in a public setting or with each other. We are good at praying as a group. He stressed that in order to live as Christ did and to grow our church we need to share our personal experiences as witnesses of Christ with each other and those outside our community. This helps others know us better and provides a personal invitation to others to want to know Christ in their own lives.
 - iv. He also stressed that people are in different places in their lives and have different needs. As an example, those that are regularly participating in KC's or CCW, may need to go deeper into their relationship with Christ in new ways.

Another example, he asked, “Do we as a parish know the families that are currently in pain and are we reaching out to help?”

- v. He shared that the renew efforts done in 2002, was a program that ended after 3 years. There was significant change in spiritualization from small group communities and a rise in RCIA participants. The mistake that was made was that it was dealt as a program and not a transformation to a way of life.
 - vi. Rich liked that one of our priorities was to build the small group communities.
 - vii. He also stressed that we need to gather as a church to pray for the GOFC efforts, to invite the Holy Spirit to be with us, to repent as a parish and ask that we surrender our will and ask for guidance as we move forward.
 - viii. We discussed options for how to move forward with small groups.
 - 1. Use Rich’s material to initiate discussion and sharing of our personal experiences with Christ
 - 2. Rich offered additional materials to add to the meetings
 - 3. The GOFC would trial the “Small Group Christian Communities” this summer to learn how to best roll out to the parish.
 - c. Rich reviewed the demographic information of Cumberland, Almena, and Turtle Lake. He will provide the report to us. There is too much information to share in this email.
5. It was agreed by the group that the next steps would be to:
- a. **The first Small Group Christian Communities meeting will be held at:**
 - i. **Mary DeFoe’s, 2597 Jeffrey Boulevard, Cumberland, WI, 54829.**
 - ii. **Wednesday, July 10th, 6:30 – 8 pm**
 - iii. **We’re keeping this simple. I’ll provide drinks and if you want you can bring a small snack to share.**
 - iv. **RSVP to Mary by July 5th**
 - b. Deacon Steve will add the Grow Our Faith Community efforts as a prayer at the next Adoration and Prayer Service At Sacred Heart on June 26th. It’s important to start praying for our efforts and to communicate to the parishes the work that we are doing. We will need strength, courage and support☺
 - c. Rich will provide information on the Demographic Report and additional materials on small groups.
 - d. We need to think about the ongoing marketing and communication of our efforts. Currently, we have been sharing updates through the bulletin, parish website, Facebook, and Elaine provides updates every 6 weeks during Deacon Greg’s rotation of the homilies at each parish.