

Haven of Mercy Area Catholic Community
Minutes 26 August 2021

Attendance: (no absences)

Fr. Ben K and Fr. Jimmy J and Fr. Mark Botzet

St. Stanislaus, Sobieski:	Joyce Borash, Michael Retka
Sacred Heart, Flensburg:	Alan Ringwelski
St. James, Randall:	Gail Johnson, Bill Kuesel
Holy Family, Belle Prairie:	Darrell Welle,
LOL, Little Falls:	Joe LaForce, Michelle Blaine
St. Mary's, Little Falls:	Lori Kneeland, Brigid Fitzgerald
MOL School:	
Traditional Latin Mass	Larry Feldt

Prayer led by Fr. Jimmy

Approval of Minutes from July 1, 2021 meeting. Moved by Gail, second Darrell. **PASSED.**

Agenda for tonight: Moved by Joe, second Darrell. **PASSED**

Introductions : All members introduced themselves, including our three new members: Lori Kneeland, Michelle Blaine , Alan Ringwelski and Larry Feldt. New members will be provided copies of any committee documents they need.

Historical Summary: Bishop Kettler wanted all diocesan parishes to begin this review and action process which for us involves 6 parishes, starting in the summer 2019. We developed areas of action and goals for each area which have been sent to the Diocese in Jan. 2020. The pandemic has slowed our progress requiring us to extend our goal timeline by one year. DREs has started meeting, discussing how to move forward jointly. There has been work toward a unified website including all 6 parishes. The 6 parishes jointly have 1) used flocknote to keep parishioners informed, 2) established devotion practices, 3) created a logo for the Haven of Mercy Area Catholic Community and 4) contracted with a company to assist with assessment of all parishes and move toward hiring of a business administrator. Sub-Committee worked on job descriptions to move forward on staff for the 6 parishes.

Review of Language of Goal: Goal Stewardship: Motion made to change the title of one goal from 'Stewardship' to 'Finances'. Moved by Fr. Ben and second by Brigid. This change will more clearly explain the goals and not confuse it with the broader definition of Stewardship which goes far beyond financial matters.. **PASSED**

OLD BUSINESS

1. Lighthouse Strategic Solutions – Exhibit A is a proposal from this company , copy given to all. Contract has been signed for this company to conduct an assessment of the parishes , including September interviews with all parish employees and school and we will use them as an assist to moving toward hiring a business administrator for all parishes. They have worked with many parish groupings and have a lot of experience to share with us. Timing for this is complete by the end of 2021. Phase 2 , should we choose to do this, could include an audit of human resources. Among other items.

2. WebSite Design: we will develop a strategy for communicating with parishioners , to begin using this fall. This communication strategy is different from website design. The website will use a landing page and move users to the two tri parish pages. **Website Committee: Mike, Lori, Jessy and Joe and Michelle.** All members can suggest sites to this committee by **Sept 1 to Michael Retka.** (micheal.retka@gmail.com)
3. We need to build the ACC culture.
4. **Sept. Newsletter** is being mailed to all 6 parishes will update/reintroduce the ACC process and specifically we will use Haven of Mercy. Area Catholic Community /Haven of Mercy is the shorthand for this. This is needed due to the slow down of our work during the pandemic as well as its disruption of Mass participation. So we will work to share what we have done and will be doing going forward. One article will share parishioners who are cross over to other parishes to work/assist in an event in the second parish(this is stewardship in action).

NEW BUSINESS

Communication Strategy: how to get parishioners ideas on board? Make sure we communicate what we are doing and use items that remind us we are Haven of Mercy made up of 6 parishes.

What we have been doing to keep Haven of Mercy in parishioners thoughts: Intro at Mass, Intentions at Mass

Future Ideas to keep parishioners aware of H o Mercy: Start Simple and grow as we move forward.

Swap pulpits; develop a prayer to be used in each church, monthly put a paragraph in Bulletin of what Have of Mercy council is doing; add a Haven of Mercy corner in the September newsletter, brand Haven of Mercy (refrig magnets, pens?) make the logo large enough (when Used) so the names of churches can be easily read and plan youth events together.

Make sure those doing intros at Masses call this the Haven of Mercy Area Cath Communit. . Those outside the council don't know what the shortened ACC stands for!

Parish reps go to the other 5 parishes to personally share info of upcoming events

H o Mercy members periodically give a short update at the end of Masses.

Bulletin: Visual to our parishioners- put a **summary of each meeting** (CALL IT HAVEN OF MERCY HIGHLIGHTS) in bulletin the second Sunday following our H of Mercy council meeting. Consider info to include (i.e., introduce the council members by name and parish again, send parishioners to our website for contact information and remind parishioners they can contact any of the council members with thoughts, suggestions, questions.THEN goals we have identified; what the council is working on to achieve the goal; discuss time lines for each item council works on; Logo – it came out at Easter, how do you like it?)

How often we will do this? Remember the frequency should be consistent.

September Newsletter: Include article of the members of the council and how to contact them.

One person needs to be in charge of getting the paragraph to the correct staff to get it in the bulletin. Who will this be? We need to id the people in charge of each platform: bulletins (secretarial staff of each parish) fb and webpage(jessy waldoch/Mike Retka) flocknote (Fr Ben) , radio (who?)

Brigid will get Haven of Mercy (HoM) minutes to Fr. Ben immediately following meeting, he will write up a **short summary** and give to Leah, Linda, Cindy and Mary Jo (or designate one of them to get it to all and to Mike and Jessy)

Brigid sends the **Minutes of each meeting** (after they are approved at the next month's meeting) to Cindy, Leah, Linda and Mary Jo, Mike and Jessy. This allows for placement on the website and copies at churches and available at the offices. But note – this is a month after the actual meeting date.

MOTION : We will include a summary block of information regarding Haven of Mercy AC Community each month, including the new Logo. Moved by Joe, second Michelle. **PASSED**

Start : we are here we are working and here are the members – go to website for contact info

Mike will update the Haven of Mercy council Members information on the website and for the Council.

Suggestion boxes. Remind parishioners that there are suggestion boxes and the 2 located in sacristy should be moved elsewhere accessible.

Develop Prayer for H o Mercy – put on agenda for next meeting

Moving Forward: we have a timeline. In our goals that needs to be reviewed and used to guide us in choosing our work as we go forward.

Old Business for next meeting – leach member will review the goals and timelines; and come prepared to discuss if we are on line or if we need to set new time line.

NEXT MEETING Thursday, September 16 ,7 pm at HOLY FAMILY

Mike and Larry will be gone, Mike will have Jessy show up.

If you have suggested church websites you like – get them to Mike by September 15th.

Submitted by Brigid Fitzgerald