

St. Mark Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes
01Dec, 2016

Meeting Time: 7pm
Location: The Cenacle

Prayer Leader: David
Refreshments: John

Scripture/Shared Prayer: John

Roll Call– Present: Father Todd, Deacon Tom, Donna Kern, Nathan Campbell, Wilma Cross, Teresa Wenzel, David Olivares, Bill Sherman, Don Toll, John Hibner, Jesse Cleary.

Ministry Presentation –

Beth Russell the Coordinator of Outreach and Integration for the Refugee and Immigrant Services for Catholic Charities of Indianapolis presented to the Council the work that Catholic Charities does with resettling refugees in the Indianapolis area. A refugee is defined by the UN as a person who has fled their native country for fear of persecution and is now living outside of the protection of their native country and is unable to return. All refugees must first apply to the UN for refugee status before resettlement can begin. Of the 21.3 million people granted refugee status by the UN in 2016 only 1% will be selected by a host country for resettling. Catholic Charities is one of nine independent organizations that handles the resettling of refugees selected by the United States. The selection of what city a refugee is resettled is based on already established communities, and the clients medical need and family ties. Indianapolis currently has the largest Burmese population in the United State. The Federal government only provides \$1,100 to each client to aid in the relocation process. Catholic Charities refugee programs are funded through grants, fundraisers, and individual donations. Refugees are required to pay back the cost of their airplane tickets to the USCBB. Most Catholic Charities assistance programs only last for three to six months after which the client is expected to have found employment and provide for themselves. Catholic Charities does assist with transportation for one month after a client arrives. Catholic Charities' employment team will work with clients for up to 5 years. Catholic Charities also assists with orientating clients to the cultural differences between their native counties and the U.S., especially either their apartment. Catholic Charities begin English classes for clients until they find employment and then can provide at home classes once employment is found. Typical first employment for clients is either manufacturing or warehouse work. The Extended Case Management department works with clients to learn how to set up a budgets and calendar as well as provide therapy for those clients who have suffered through a traumatic experience. Last year all clients that Catholic Charities worked with were self sufficient within the three to six month window that Catholic Charities provides.

Finance Commission –

Commission has setup volunteer groups to see that the work that Kevin Sweeney handled is taken care of until his replacement can be found. The St. Mark roof goal has still not been meet. Commission is looking at using other funds or continuing the campaign into 2017. Repairs to the church roof have been complete. Repairs to the school roof to begin in 2017.

The minutes were approved as presented.

Good of the Parish –

The Financial council will begin in January placing a small report in the church's weekly bulletins so parishioners will be able to see how the parish is doing and what projects the collections and donations are going towards.

The Music Ministry is being helped out with its need for organist and pianist by Travis, an organist/pianist from Nobelsville. However the Music Ministry is in need of more organist/pianist to help with the masses.

A concern was raised about there not being enough doughnuts after the 7am and 930am masses for everyone participating in the Coffee and Doughnuts to be able to have one. A request was made for the parish to re-evaluate the number of doughnuts that are ordered for after the 7am and 930am masses. There was also discussion on possible ways to ask that all parishioners participating in Coffee and Doughnuts take only one doughnut when they go through the line the first time so that everyone can have at least one before going back for seconds.

Old Business –

The St. Mark music ministry has made adjustments to the microphone/speaker system to better help all St. Mark parishioners hear the mass.

The St. Mark Liturgical committee is continuing to work on finding a good place to store hand sanitizer for the Eucharistic Ministry to use before serving communion to the parish.

The new chair frames with arms for the church will arrive in January. Father has reached out to Roncalli about finding help for the Hospitality Ministry to make sure chair rows are correctly aligned in between masses. The rubber stoppers for the kneeling cushions used in the church will be replaced with new ones.

St. Mark has signed off on the Eagle Scout project for a new flag pole for the school. Now waiting on the Scout Troop council to sign off on the project.

Parish council members David and Wilma will work on ideas for ways that the parish can celebrate the feast day of St. Mark the Evangelist 25Apr. Because 25Apr will fall in the middle of the week in 2017 will look to hold celebration either the weekend before or after.

Deacon Tom will be reaching out to the leaders of the Welcoming and Hospitality Ministry to discuss way the two ministries can better work together to improve initial welcome to possible new members of St. Mark.

The committee that was created to look at creating an electronic database for use at St. Mark has been unable to find a single product that would handle everything that the parish would like to use the database for. The committee reached out to other parishes to see what they were using and discovered that they use multiple systems. Committee is now evaluating multiple programs such as New Sign-up Genius and Volunteer Scheduler pro and others and is evaluating the cost of these programs vs. the usefulness of these programs to St. Mark.

Father David has received his visa and is scheduled to arrive in the United States on 06Dec16. Father David will take us residence at St. Pius X. Both St. Pius X and St. Mark will each contribute \$11,000 a year to cover Fr. David expenses. Fr. David will be celebrating masses in both English and Burmese, at both St. Pius X and St. Mark.

New Business –

Council was updated on the interview process to replace Kevin Sweeney who stepped down as the business manager of St. Mark in order to take a position with the Archdiocese of Lafayette. Interviews have taken place and Father Todd will be meeting with the top candidate with in the next two weeks.

St. Mark will be recreating a Building and Grounds committee to identify, monitor, and address both the short and long term needs of the parish building and grounds. Members will be appointed by the pastor based on their expertise.

Pastoral Council created four small groups to look at the 2016-2017 Hopes and Dreams and create an action plan to be presented to the full council for consideration at January meeting. The small groups are: Spiritual Life handled by Deacon Tom and John, Parish Life handled by Wilma, Don, and John, Outreach handled by Teresa, Donna, and Bill, and Communication handled by David, Donna, and Nathan.

Thank you cards were discussed:

Committee Reports:

Youth Report –

19 parishioners from St. Mark took part in the ICYC. The Middle school will be holding their Christmas Dance on 02Dec16. 10Dec16 the Middle school will be doing an ice skating event. And plans are underway for the south deanery youth rally to take place on 04Feb17.

Social Life –

The Bingo Bash raised around \$8,000. The Young at Heart will be doing a luncheon on 02Dec16. After the 530pm mass on 17Dec there will be a Philippine Christmas Celebration. Discussion on trying to get the St. Mark Roncalli students who participated on the football team to all attend one mass so they can be recognized.

Liturgy –

Advent season underway. Had 18 participants attend the Sunday night even on the first week of Advent.

Spiritual Life-

The Spiritual Life Committee will be reforming with an action plan to be presented to the council at a latter date.

Outreach-

St. Vincent de Paul will be doing a truck collection of household goods the weekend of 11Dec16. The Giving tree has gone up. The hat and glove drive has started. Catholic Charities program Feeding the Homeless has put out a request for blankets to help those they serve.

Upcoming Events –

- 08Dec16 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 12Dec16 the Knights of Columbus will have a mass at their meeting hall @7pm before the meeting hall is sold.
- 14Dec16 Reconciliation services for the south side parishes @7pm.
- 18Dec16 Holy Season Concert
- 19Jan17 Science Fair.

Pastor Comments

A new small church community is being formed which will bring the total at St. Mark to seven.

Closing Prayer - David

Reminders

- **Next Meeting – 26 January 2017**
- **Prayer Leader – Teresa**
- **Refreshments – Wilma**