

**Description: Family & Community Life Commission Meeting**

**Date: February 26, 2015 Parish Leadership Night**

**Attendees:**

- **Present: Ann Bastiaens, Bruce Musolf, Jo Casey, Wendy Ashbridge, Lisa Okoneski**
  - **Absent: Beth Duffy, Leonard Gust, Lona Wacker, Mary Rousseau, Peter Banick, Tiffany Rupp, Tina Draves, Steve Chojnacki**
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**OPENING ACTIVITIES**

- The Parish Leadership Night was introduced by PPC chair, Dave Gerken, and Father Doug Ebert led us in the opening prayer. All nine Commissions were represented and the PPC was present. Following a light supper, the Commissions were dismissed to hold their meeting while the PPC met separately.

**Agenda Item 1: Parish Communication**

**Long Range Plan Focus Area & Objective: (L3) Approve Minutes, Share Parish Council news, Review Goals and Objectives and Discuss Membership of our Commission.**

**Discussion:** Minutes from the last meeting (September 12, 2014) were previously provided to commission members via email. Members provided written approval of minutes from the Fall 2014 meeting, with Bruce Musolf and Ann Bastiaens being the first and second members to approve the April meeting minutes.

**Parish Council Report** – Steve Chojnacki, met with the PPC separately during the Leadership Night, and submitted the following update: The results of the GROW survey are in; raw data has been distributed to staff. The organization that facilitates the survey has been and will continue to meet with a committee of SJN leaders and staff to discuss the results and to develop a plan to move forward. This will take place over the next few months. The parish as a whole will hear about the GROW results and the future plan in the coming months.

**Membership of our Commission** – Ana Theisen had informed the Commission via a January 7<sup>th</sup> email that there would be staff changes and that as of January 15, 2015 her role at SJN would be changing. At the leadership evening, we learned Wendy Ashbridge and Lisa Okoneski are the new staff leaders assigned to the Family and Community Life Commission. Ann Bastiaens informed those present that she is leaving the F&CL Commission effective following the transition of information to the new leadership. Father Doug stopped in during the meeting and offered encouragement for the work being done and also mentioned he would help find volunteers where needed. Wendy and Lisa shared the work they've been doing to get up to speed on the various ministries and their plans going forward.

**Goals and Objectives** – There was a discussion of the Commission Goals and Objectives. The SJN Commission Goals and Objectives document for 2013-15 was shared by Ann and will forward the document to Lisa and Wendy.

**Action Items:** Minutes approved. Ann will forward to Wendy Ashbridge and Lisa Okoneski, the list of members with email addresses as well as most recent Commission meeting minutes from September 2014 and the SJN Commission Goals and Objectives for 2013-2015. Lisa and Wendy will follow-up with members of the Commission.

**Agenda Item 2: Non-LRP commission Objectives**

**Long Range Plan Focus Area & Objective: Coordinated Ministries/ Cross Commissions**

**Discussion:** For those that were able to attend the Parish Leadership Night on 2/26/15, Kathy Groettum, from the PPC, has requested the following: Feedback is welcome and if you would direct it to our Parish Pastoral Council Chair, [David Gerken](mailto:David.Gerken@ffa.gov) ([David.Gerken@ffa.gov](mailto:David.Gerken@ffa.gov)), it would be appreciated. Please give feedback on what you liked and what you may want to be different for next year.

Action Item: Give feedback to [David Gerken](mailto:David.Gerken@ffa.gov) ([David.Gerken@ffa.gov](mailto:David.Gerken@ffa.gov)), regarding the above.

**Agenda Item 3: MINISTRY DISCUSSION & UPDATES**

**Long Range Plan Focus Area & Objective: (W12) Members are invited and drawn into opportunities to feel connected.**

**Parish Picnic:**

The 2015 Summer Sizzle Committee will be holding the *first planning meeting* in February. The main focus of the meeting will be to confirm all the committee chair people and share upcoming picnic changes.

We are continually searching for *new committee members* and welcome any parishioner recommendations. Please forward contact information to Mary Rousseau the Summer Sizzle Chairperson at [mjrrou@juno.com](mailto:mjrrou@juno.com).

*Reservations* for some of the bigger ticket items, such as the pony rides and petting zoo, are already in the process of being contracted for the picnic.

The all-parish picnic has been a *very successful community building event*. Even though our picnic has been free; in the past the last two years we have seen revenue as a result of incorporating a raffle and collecting free will offerings.

The focus of the picnic will change to that of a *'fundraiser'* in 2015. The first step towards increasing revenue is the addition of a beer garden to the picnic.

*Current challenge*...not knowing who is replacing Ana Theisen as the Staff leader for the picnic.

Summer Sizzle 2015 is scheduled for Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 p.m. at the Church of St. John Neumann.

### **500 Card Party**

We started off with a total of 33 players for October as compared to 26 players a year ago. November's turn-out was 21 players as compared to 22 players a year ago. We have players that were new to us last year are continuing to come back to play cards this year. I feel this shows that we positive and welcoming atmosphere. I recall one newer player asked me if we were "hard core" or if we were more for the fun of the game before he made his decision to play. I told him that we like to consider our card party as a social event and welcomed him. He now brings his wife to play. Looking into the winter months, we may have a few less people as the "snow birds" have headed south. They will come back in the spring.

### **Adoption Ministry**

We hosted the Adoption Mass on November 22nd. It was followed with a reception in the Social Hall. Information was provided. We did not have any new families attend, and there was zero interest. It was disappointing, but we thought we would try something new so as not to have too many events during the month of November. We typically have a great turn out with our ministry members, but we barely had half. I'm not sure what we will do for next year, but I have been busy with caring for my in-laws who we moved here this year. I was not able to give this as much attention this year.

In previous years, we had an information night, guest speaker, etc. and we advertise throughout all area parishes. We usually have about 20 in attendance. We will have to revisit this next year.

### **Donut Sunday:**

Donut Sundays seem to be progressing smoothly. I'll be real honest I've just been doing the IT side of things. I stop by every once in awhile to make sure things are running okay and to ask the volunteers if there is anything they want changed but so far no one has said so.

As far as donut Sunday plans goes, I generally just take all directives from Ana, but as she is stepping down now I will now be talking with Paul (I think). I have not heard from him yet so I will be e-mailing him soon to make sure he was given my e-mail. When Ana and I talked last she had mentioned that Fr. Ebertes would like to have more donut Sundays. I think it's fine as long as we have the money/donations for it. Other then that it's just normal business.

### **Wit and Wisdom:**

First Friday lunches have fallen by the wayside because of lack of attendance, with only a small core group of seniors still making the lunch. In my opinion, there are two factors that make the Friday bag lunch program successful. First is the presenter. Second is subject matter. It has to be something that is of real interest to a wide audience. Another factor

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may be a somewhat regular schedule, not a maybe schedule. The need for good subject matter is crucial. Seniors may have little interest in the dating practices of teens and other subjects. There is much in the religious world that might make good subject matter. Pope Francis, Muslim, Christian relationships in various countries, etc.

The quarterly socials have been a great success, as seniors enjoy the opportunity to get out and visit while enjoying a good meal. We do have energetic people on the board who are willing to work those events. That also is a plus. Given the aging of the parish population, I believe this is a very necessary program to continue in its present form.

### **Sew for Grace Ministry:**

We have had a busy fall sewing for different church activities. We have also been very fortunate to have a couple really good donations of fabric for our ministry. With a lot of this fabric we have made mittens, hats, scarves and pillow cases which were donated to the Lewis house. We have been making bibs for the babies that are newly baptized. We have monogrammed towels for the kitchen and made covers for the silver wear. A quilt was made and donated for the Gala for San Lucas. Right now we are making baby blankets, diapers and bags that will go along to Guatemala for the hospital. There are other little sewing projects for church that we are asked to do.

I'm new at this but I think this is going well. I am glad to get Saturday for us to sew. I wish we could have more of an area to keep a couple machines with fabric. I do appreciate the area we did get but it fills fast.

**Action Items: None**