

Parish Cluster meeting of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Sacred Heart, and Saints Philip and James
Thursday, June 7, 2018, 6:30 pm
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary – Lost Nation

Present: Father Francis, Carolyn Proesch, Diana Scott, Ron Nowachek, Sally VandeWalle, Stacy Agnitsch, Sue Zeller, Voting members - Jim Schroeder, Roseanne Wisor, Bill Horstmann, Blaine Crock, Kathy Mizaur, Mark Denniston, Al Kagemann, Peter Whitman. Guests: Deacon Mike Shiel, Barb Ihns, Jackie Spain.

Chair: Mark Denniston – Sacred Heart

Mark Denniston called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Opening Prayer was led by Father Francis.

Minutes from the previous meeting of February 13, 2018 were read by Carolyn Proesch. Motion to approve minutes – Al Kagemann, second – Roseanne Wisor. All ayes, motion carried, minutes approved.

Discussion was held regarding the Mass rotation schedule. Mark Denniston reported collecting only 3 comments from Sacred Heart regarding the rotation. Roseanne Wisor reported on comments from OLHR parishioners. It was agreed to continue with the rotation. The next rotation will begin on June 30, 2017 with Saturday evening Mass being held at 5:00 pm at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, alternating between Lost Nation and Toronto. Initially, this rotation was to include Sacred Heart having 8:15 am Mass on Sunday and Saints Philip and James having Mass at 10:30 am. Mark Denniston and Peter Whitman reported that Sacred Heart and Saints Philip and James have held discussions to swap Sunday Mass times for the respective parishes. Saints Philip and James will have the early Sunday morning Mass, moving the time to 8:00 am. Sacred Heart will have the later Sunday Mass, with the beginning time of 10:00 am. Diana will print the new Mass times in the bulletin and Father will announce the new Mass times in the upcoming weeks.

Concerns were raised regarding two of the three parishes of the cluster having discussions without the third parish of the cluster. Father Francis explained that by-laws for decision making for the cluster have not yet been outlined, therefore, the discussion and agreement between Sacred Heart and Saints Philip and James is a factor to consider. Father explained that this type of agreement showed promise of the parishes working together to meet a mutually beneficial end. Each of the respective parishes feels that this agreement will be a mutually beneficial for them in terms of attendance and collections. Beginning at the first Mass of this rotation, each parish will take Mass counts through December 31, 2018. A complete report will be compiled by each Parish Council President and Secretary for their respective parishes. The findings will be reported at the Parish Cluster meeting following the completion of the rotation.

A draft of a proposed Parish Cluster constitution was distributed to all council members. Each parish council will review the constitution, article by article, and will bring input and be prepared to discuss the constitution at the next parish cluster meeting.

Father reported on the Clerical Institute meetings he recently attended. The focus being Vision 2020, as outlined by the Diocese. He emphasized that no organization can exist without a vision. Parishes are being encouraged to engage strongly with Matthew 28:20, to "go and make disciples of all." Each church is asked to consider, "Are we really doing this?" Strong engagement with this vision will be necessary to grow our churches.

Father also spoke to the formation of a committee within the cluster to develop our cluster vision. He emphasized the importance of the cluster being proactive to show viability. He will be contacting people personally to consider serving on this committee. The vision of the cluster will be based on consideration of the needs designated by each parish. Father provided hand outs regarding positions within a parish and or parish cluster. Based on the size of our cluster, Father spoke to the necessity of at least two necessary positions for our cluster. Those positions being a central secretary, as well as, a full time Pastoral Assistant – Deacon Mike Sheil. The cluster is asked to review the handouts regarding positions needed and to brainstorm on ideas on fund raising to make this vision possible. Parishes are also asked to find avenues to move parishioners toward Stewardship within the individual parishes, as well as the cluster.

Other items of concern presented include the small number of attendees for weekday Masses. Considerations need to be made on how to increase attendance, or to cut the number of weekday Masses in the cluster. Father also encouraged joining him for Eucharistic Adoration, during June, Sunday evenings from 5:00 – 6:00 pm in Grand Mound.

The Liturgical Coordinator position was discussed with Father providing a written recommendation for the dissolution of this position effective July 31, 2018. Motion to accept this recommendation – Jim Schroeder, second – Kathy Mizaur, all ayes, motion carried.

Other business – Mark Denniston raised concerns regarding the handling of Father's email. Father explained the structure of his email and clarified the access to his diocesan email, as a necessity due to the volume of email received.

The next parish cluster meeting is set for September 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm in Lost Nation. Chair will be Peter Whitman of Saints Philip and James.

Motion to adjourn: Al Kagemann, second – Roseanne Wisor, all ayes, motion carried, meeting adjourned 8:02 pm.