

## Holy Cross Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 22, 2016 7:00 p.m.

The August Parish Pastoral Council meeting was a joint meeting with representation from the three Parishes, Holy Cross Wendelin, St. Joseph's Stringtown, and St. Joseph's Olney, creating the Parish Partnership. The meeting was held in the community room in Olney. Attending from Holy Cross: Fr. Mark Stec, Fr. Charles Anyaoku, Clint Bergbower, Missy Buerster, Sherry Geier, Henry Kessler, Michael Kistner, Gail Niebrugge, and Melissa Weidner.

Fr. Mark and Fr. Charles gave brief histories of the path to where they are now, serving our Parish Partnership. Fr. Mark then led the discussion around the Parish Partnership planning and development. A copy of the document submitted to Belleville in 2014 can be accessed at:

<http://fathermarkstec.blogspot.com/2014/11/parish-partnership-plan-for-future.html>

Representatives from our Parish Partnership will meet with the Bishop on Saturday, October 22, 2016.

Major areas for discussion included:

- Governance-including, but not limited to:
  - Pastoral Councils
  - Finance Councils
  - Board of Education
  - Committees of Pastoral Council and Parish
  - Communication (bulletins, websites, calendars)
  - Support Personnel
- Faith Formation
  - Parish School of Religion
  - Vacation Bible School
  - Adult Faith Formation
    - Bible Study
  - Small Christian Communities
  - Youth Ministry
    - High School Religions
  - RCIA
- Community Life
  - Funeral Dinners
  - Fellowship
  - Family Life
  - Ministry to the Homebound
- Liturgy and Worship
  - Eucharist
  - Weekend Mass Schedule
  - Weekday Mass Schedule
  - Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living, Prison

- RCIA
- Devotional Life
  - Stations of the Cross
  - Holy Hour (currently 3rd Wednesday at St. Joseph Stringtown and First Friday at St. Joseph Olney)
- Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Children's/Youth Programs
  - Christmas
  - Graduation
  - Other
- Funerals
  - Wake Services
  - Funeral Masses
  - Burial
- Holy Day Schedule
  - Christmas
  - Triduum
  - Easter

After an overview, members present divided into five groups to discuss each of the above topics. Each Parish had representation within each group to begin the problem solving and decision making process. Within the next year, one Priest will need to serve three Parishes in an effective manner.

The joint Parish Council meeting finished with a prayer.

Holy Cross Wendelin Parish Council members Fr. Mark Stec, Clint Bergbower, Missy Buerster, Sherry Geier, Michael Kistner, Gail Niebrugge, and Melissa Weidner remained to hold a short meeting related to Holy Cross Wendelin issues.

Parish Appreciation and the official welcome to Fr. Charles Anyaoku will be held on Sunday, September 11, 2016. Parish Council members will work collaboratively with the Family Life Committee to prepare food, provide desserts, and facilitate the celebration.

A small group met with Ryan Will to look at the grotto. Earlier inspection showed that the current structure is crumbling and beyond repair. Ryan will provide estimates for stonework, concrete work, etc. and final decisions will be made at a later date. Council members agree that this is a decision that can be delayed while other, more pressing matters are considered in the short term.

Sherry Geier and Missy Buerster attended the Picnic Wrap-up and Head of Stands meeting. Going forward there will be a more open line of communication between the Parish Council and the Picnic Committee, especially when considering the purchase of larger or high dollar items and requests for work that would affect the overall building and grounds of the Church and Parish Hall.

The final item discussed was the issue of unlocking the Church now that a Priest does not live on site. The following decisions were made:

### **Locking and Unlocking Church beginning August 2016**

- Each Parish Council member has been given/will be given a key to the Church.
- Each member will be responsible one Sunday out of each eight to unlock the Church and set up for Mass. The schedule will repeat.
- When a member's term is up, he/she will return the key and no longer be responsible for this duty, unless he/she requests to continue.
- Fr. Mark or Fr. Charles will take care of Saturday evening mass unless there is a schedule conflict. In that case, a Parish Council member will be asked to take responsibility.
- Fr. Mark, Fr. Charles, or Martha will unlock and lock up as often as is reasonable for funerals, weekday/special events or masses, etc. If there is a schedule conflict, a Parish Council member will be asked to take responsibility.
- Parish Council members will take responsibility to find a replacement any Sunday (or other event) that he/she is not able to be present.
- Council members living close (Clint Bergbower, Missy Buerster, and Sherry Geier), have all offered to substitute or trade whenever necessary. Also, Milissa Weber and Kristi Sandschafer have Church keys and have offered to unlock, as well.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Olney meeting room.