

**Elmira Planning Team
Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Lorie Brink, Fr. John DeSocio, Fr. Rick Farrell, Amy Finnerty, Armand Fusco, Fr. Scott Kubinski, Ed Looney, Melissa Kalec, Bill McCarthy, Mary Montanarella, Philomena Mrkus, David Quinn, Karen Rinefierd, Deacon Paul Sartori, Jeff Schmidt, Mike Smith

<u>Action Items</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>By When</u>
• Ensure each church is counting Mass attendance weekly	Pastors	Ongoing
• Bulletin Articles	Karen	Ongoing
• Invite Bishop Matano to come to preside at a special Mass after the clustering of the parishes.	New pastor, Karen	July
• Create a timeline for going through the merger process.	Pastors, Karen	Done
• Create a response form for 3/27 and bring copies of handouts.	Karen	Done
• Have copies of the Mass schedule info available at Masses this weekend.	Pastors, office staff	Done
• Learn more about space needs for the food pantry.	Philomena	5/10
• Identify 4 representatives to serve on the transitional pastoral council for 2017/18.	Pastors, pastoral council chairs	ASAP
New Items from April Meeting		
• Draft pulpit announcement and handout for this weekend	Karen	4/6
• Send to Karen the names and contact information for each parish's 4 representatives to serve on the 2017/18 transitional pastoral council	Pastors, pastoral council representatives	

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Opening Prayer – Fr. Rick

Quick Updates

- Bishop Matano knows that we are meeting on the Mass Schedule tonight and is praying for us.
- Reviewed timeline for merger process.
- The pastors or pastoral council representatives will send to Karen the names and contact information for each parish's 4 representatives to serve on the 2017/18 transitional pastoral council.
- June planning team meeting is Monday, June 12.

Selecting a Weekend Mass Schedule

- Planning Team comments regarding the 3/27 Parishioner Meetings
 - Surprised by support for 5:00 or 5:30—very helpful to learn the wishes of parishioners
 - Need time between Masses for priests to meet with people
 - Hoping people will be able to move to the various sites
 - Need to visit how Mass schedule meshes with Faith Formation—Donna Bennett shared information with Karen earlier today:
 - 110 children come on Sunday morning—current timeframe is 8:45-10:00 am; Donna recommended that classes go no later than 10:30 or 11

- 84 people, including 45 children, are in the family program which meets every other Wednesday evening – this option is increasing in popularity
 - 45 children attend on Monday evening – these numbers are dwindling
- Surprised how many people did not get the bigger picture – all the criteria which need to be balanced against one another
- Can a church (SCB) be used after relegation? Yes, it can be used until it is sold.
- With the new Mass schedule there may be no Sunday Masses at SCB but other Masses and functions take place there now and can certainly continue.
- Discussion about Saturday morning Masses
- Why are we trying to keep all these churches open?
- Various levels of support for a Sunday evening Mass
- Need to think about how our parishes work with Elmira College and the monasteries
- Need a Mass geared toward families and a separate one for teens (maybe not weekly)
- If the regional Mass time isn't broke, don't fix it
- Families and working people will support the 5:30 Saturday Mass
- Some Saturday elderly Mass attendees may change to Sunday morning
- Sunday at 12:30 is too late
- Don't need to build a schedule around a sick priest or vacation weekends
- In addition to the criteria agreed upon at the outset, other things discussed and considered include safety and lighting issues, at what time others in the Diocese attend Mass, which time those that attend our current Masses are likely to go in the future, the capacity of churches with expected attendance, and coverage needed if one priest is unavailable.
- After deliberating all of the above, the following Mass schedule was agreed upon:
 - Saturday 4:00 pm at St. Mary
 - Saturday 5:30 pm at Ss. Peter & Paul
 - Sunday 7:30 am at St. Casimir
 - Sunday 9:00 am at Our Lady of Lourdes
 - Sunday 10:00 am at St. Patrick
 - Sunday 11:30 am at St. Mary's
 - The Regional Mass continues on Sunday at 5:00 at St. Patrick's

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.