



Liturgy Committee Minutes  
November 6, 2014

Members present: Chairperson Deb Smith, Fr. Nils Hernandez, Blanca Schroeder, Joanne Enyart, Teri Strutt, Linda Miller, Connie Leete, Linda Bacon, and Julie Heitland. Fr. Nils has invited Lilia Tinderholdt (St. Bridget) to attend as she works with the Hispanic community as well. Absent: Barb Ruff

Chairperson Deb Smith opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish hall with Teri Strutt leading the opening prayer. The minutes from the October meeting we read and approved.

The focus to the meeting was to formulate a mission statement to present to the parish council for their approval. A mission statement is a reflection of the present state of the organization or company. After reviewing the current mission statement put in place in 2004, it was decided that it did not reflect the “why” or “purpose” of the Trinity Cluster. The present mission statement “What you receive as Gift, give as Gift” is better suited to Stewardship (time, talent, treasure).

We each receive our call from God at Baptism to be a part of his kingdom and where 2 or more are gathered in his name a community is created. Each person is an equally important member of the community. We are many parts but one body in Christ.

Each member was asked to reflect on three (3) questions and share their thoughts. From these answers a mission statement would be formulated. Questions 1: If Jesus were Here today, what words would he give us to direct our future? Responses: to love one another; show compassion; be helpful; sharing our faith; following Jesus (discipleship); being welcoming and hospitable. Question 2: Why do you think the universal Catholic Church exists? Responses: To hold us together; unity; to spread the word; evangelize; celebrate the Eucharist; to build on Christ’s foundation; Christ is the real presence – Word, Eucharist, assembly, priest. Question 3: What makes our cluster unique and special? Responses: different needs; diversity/cultures; caring community; strong faith; and different talents and gifts.

From these responses the following commonalities were prevalent: faith; unity; compassion; caring; celebrate; hospitality. These would be used to draft a mission statement based on the following criteria: identity (identify the cluster); purpose (reason for existence of cluster); function (to whom and what of the cluster life); and future (challenges or in need of strengthening). Fr. Nils left the meeting to make a phone call and the committee came up with the following mission statement:

We the Trinity Cluster  
A community of faith  
United in our diversity  
Celebrating the Eucharist of God’s love  
Living the gospel and sharing our gifts.

The line that addresses the future is not stated. The committee will continue to work on this and bring suggestions to the December meeting.

St. Mary served refreshments as we continued with the rest of the meeting.

- Cluster mass settings -- St. Bridget and St. Patrick are using the Mass of Christ our Savior and St. Mary is using Heritage Mass. Fr. Nils would like each parish to use the same one beginning with Advent 2015. This will continue to be discussed at future meetings.
- Liturgical seasons and liturgical environment – We must follow the liturgical seasons of the church when decorating for special events, not be dictated by the secular world we live in. Everyone will accept what we are doing if they understand the reasoning why we do it this way. The Paschal Mystery is to be at the focus of what we do. Advent decorations will be up through the fourth (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). Christmas decorations may be put up after mass and will remain up through the Baptism of the Lord.
  - Advent – Make sure you are using a purple color, not blue. The church does not recognize blue as a liturgical color. Other colors that are part of the liturgical cycle are: green, red, white or gold, and on occasion black. The first week of Advent a family will process in with Fr. Nils and light the first candle after the wreath is blessed. The servers will light the candles in the subsequent weeks when they light the altar candles.
  - Christmas Eve mass schedule change: St. Patrick will be at 4:00 p.m.; St. Bridget will be at 6:00 p.m.; St. Mary’s will be at 8:30 p.m. We will use the Midnight Mass readings and music suggestions. St. Patrick will have a 9:00 a.m. mass on Christmas day. The gathering song will continue while the altar and crib are incensed and Fr. Nils arrives at the presider’s chair. Each parish will then chant the Martyrology (a proclamation) “The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ” following the conclusion of the gathering song. This will be something new for each parish.
  - December 8 – Immaculate Conception Mass times – St. Mary – 9:00 a.m.; St. Bridget – 5:30 p.m. (bilingual); St. Patrick 7:00 p.m.
  - December 12 -- Our Lady of Guadalupe – 7:00 p.m. at St. Bridget.
- Evaluation of Mass Schedules –
  - Care Centers – mass is appreciated by the residents with others attending
  - Daily masses – will move to 9:00 a.m. in all parishes beginning in January for uniformity and convenience
  - Weekend masses – The Saturday mass will stay at 4:30 p.m. as the mass in Spanish has been moved to 7:00 p.m. to allow for travel time. Sunday mass time options were discussed. Fr. Nils does not have enough time to visit with families – especially following a special event – before he has to rush off to the other mass. Travel times are tight when traveling between Postville and McGregor. Two (2) options were discussed; moving the 8:00 a.m. mass to 7:30 or moving the 10:00 a.m. mass to 10:30. Following discussion on the pros and cons of each one a motion was made by Connie Leete: I move we change the mass times for daily mass to 9:00 a.m. cluster-wide and move the

10:00 a.m. mass to 10:30 a.m. to allow for Fr. Nils to celebrate the sacraments, visit with parishioners, and travel time. Linda Bacon seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed on consensus. This will be presented to the pastoral council for their approval. The change will take affect with the January rotation change.

- Rosary before mass – All parishes are currently doing this and will continue to pray it before mass each weekend. They are to be done to allow everyone a time of silence to prepare themselves for mass.
- Communal Reconciliation rotation – St. Patrick will host the Advent 2014 and Lenten 2015 services; St. Bridget will host the Advent 2015 and Lenten 2016 services; St. Mary will host the Advent 2016 and Lenten 2017 services. All services will be on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 on a date selected by Fr. Nils.

Our next meeting will be December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick. This will be a social meeting so all are asked to bring something to share. St. Bridget will provide the opening prayer. St. Mary lead the recitation of the Hail Mary to close the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Heitland, secretary