

Minutes: Wayne County Planning Team-July 11, 2018

Absent: Fr. Symon, Fr. Tedesche

The meeting started at 6:03pm

Deacon Bob led the Opening Prayer

Minutes revision by Deacon Bob, noting that the book mentioned by Mary Capone was actually "Divine Renovation" not Revelation.

Acceptance of the minutes for the last meeting with correction noted: Motion by Maureen O'Conner seconded by Roger Clark.

Shannon noted that we need to come to a point of recommendation with a 2 pastor/2 parochial vicar scenario or the 3 + 1 scenario. It was questioned regarding 2 + 2 being 2 pastor/2 parochial vicar instead of 3 priest and 1 parochial vicar. Shannon said that the wording had changed during the process.

She said the Bishop won't want to choose the scenario so we needed to try to get it done tonight. She presented the stickers for voting by putting our choice on the scenario we thought was in agreement with our parish. The vote was 10 for the 2 + 2 and 7 for the 3 + 1 with one abstention. We then went around the room and gave our reasons for the way we voted.

- 2 + 2 Member doesn't want to go through this again. We need to try to keep the 2 clusters vital.
- 3 + 1 Members said the comments on survey helped with decision and had no better idea
- 2 + 2 Member doesn't feel like 3 + 1 is better for long term. It won't prevent planning from happening again. It is a lot of road to cover, so 2 + 2 would be better
- 3 + 1 Member sees logistical problems. St. Michael has a lot of other things going on.
- Abstain
- 2 + 2 Member says it will balance the equation with 2 priests and 3 + 1 is short term solution. Also noted that if nothing changes everything changes and it doesn't seem fair.
- 3 + 1 Member noted that he is tired of driving and there is not enough time after early mass to stay and chat. Is also concerned with the welfare of the elderly who participate.
- 3 + 1 Member says it is most workable. 2 + 2 will leave a priest/parochial vicar living by himself. It is a lot of driving. Believes that there will be less stability because some priests are retiring and some are very young
- 3 + 1 Member says it is a more natural affiliation, and the population distribution would mean less travel. There are 2 deacons and staffing might be better. If 2 + 2 smaller parishes may be dominated by larger parish
- 2 + 2 Member thinks it's a better balance for the Migrant community
- 2 + 2 Member believes it will add and extra mass that parishioners would prefer
- 2+2 Member says concerns were overstated and the 2 + 2 will give eastern clusters best chance of surviving. Parishes may gain a different priest than the one they have now and that they may become more viable due to pairing with a larger church.
- 2 + 2 Member stated that reasons were the same as others and concerned about buildings and ages. Feels driving time and mass times will have an impact. Thinks we should nurture parishes that have families for better attendance.
- 2 + 2 Member says where the priest and parochial vicar live will be an issue. It is up to the priest to set up where he will feel most comfortable.

- 3 + 1 Member says Newark should stand alone due to so much going on. Reduction in priests is going to close buildings.
 - 3 + 1 member was concerned with the impact on the elderly should they have to drive a great distance to go to the favorite mass time.
 - 2 + 2 Member said it is best for ministerial sharing. Sharing of responsibilities may be helpful to St. Michaels.
 - 2 + 2 member says priests working together will make better environment for the priests. They will work out how they are going to be visible at all parishes. It should make for better services rendered.
- Break

No one moved their dot during break. Further discussion:

Several noted that they could go either way with no problem. We need to have a consensus so there are no issues down the road. Everyone has to be okay with our decision. If Bishop has to decide he will note that we did not do as he charged us.

- It was noted that neither scenario will directly affect St. Katherine Drexel or St. Max. They will still be able to retain all their masses.
- The vote was still split with one member hesitant about moving vote.
- Noted that money was an issue and that some parishes will have to close if they can't stay fiscally afloat.
- Noted that we need to evangelize
- Is there money through a grant for staffing evangelization project?
- Question on what if we do give it to the Bishop? Could he chose a whole other scenario?. Shannon said anything is possible.
- Discussion on mass schedule driving attendance
- Noted that there may be an added mass for eastern cluster if we vote 2 + 2
- Motion made by Mary DeLisio to revote, seconded by Maureen O'Conner. All in favor. Vote taken all unanimously voted for 2 + 2 with one abstention.

A quick overview of the timeline was done.

Surveys will go up on the website, each parish will get their own results.

Our next meeting will be August 8th at 6pm in Newark

Meeting ended at 8:22pm

Respectfully submitted

Mary DeLisio