**Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative**

**Collaborative Parish Council Meeting June 17, 2016**

Present: Fr. Walter, Fr. Paul, Diahne Goodwin, Dan Armstrong, Steve Ryan, Janet Maroney, JoAnn Witek, Paul McMahon, Carolyn Johnson, Dave Winders, Hayley Reynolds

1. Opening Prayer
   1. Diahne G.
2. Welcome of New Members
   1. Carolyn Johnson, Dave Winders, Hayley Reynolds
   2. Fr. Walter noted several other members may be joining as well

1. Minutes of last meeting
   1. Approved
   2. Scribe this meeting: Paul M.
2. Mass Schedule
   1. Feedback has generally been positive. It is too early to tell at St. I’s because they just started their summer schedule 9:30 a.m. Mass.
   2. In coming months the logistics of ministries related to mass time changes will be addressed. With shifting times, ministers may shift to another mass or possibly “take a break” from these ministries and move onto another ministry.
3. Collaborative Parish Plan and Two Important Meeting Dates for September
   1. Collaborative Parish Plan
      1. Very soon the plan will be approved by Cardinal Sean and this will cause us to be attentive to it in light of our collective mission as Christians: to go make disciples. This mission will need to be central to our parish work and life. It will result in much change as we move from maintenance to mission.
      2. Fr. Walter provided some context for the collaborative parish plan:
         1. Over the last decade, participation in the Eucharistic celebration has dropped 50%. The decline has been slow and thus, not necessarily obvious to all.
         2. The number of children being brought to the sacraments has fallen. For example, this past year at St. Elizabeth’s we have baptized less than 20 children.
         3. Many adults coming to the sacraments do not know their faith, nor have they had an encounter with Jesus. So, it is difficult for them to educate their children and introduce them to Jesus. There needs to be more focus on faith formation for adults.
         4. Each year at the Easter Vigil, we are only bringing a one or two people to be baptized.
         5. None of these trends are good. They clearly indicate that both parishes are dying. However, as believers in the resurrection, we know that trends can be reversed. The purpose of the collaborative parish plan is to address these trends by reigniting our relationship with Jesus through encounter.
         6. Things are not dire – especially relative to many other parishes – but we do need to make changes and the collaborative parish plan is our guide to doing so for the next three years. We have a very good foundation on which to build (i.e. there is much that is good and much we are doing well).
      3. Fr. Walter shared several perspectives from a recent conference Divine Renovation. Core messages as they relate to our moving forward with the collaborative parish plan:
         1. A healthy parish is a growing parish that has shifted from maintenance to mission.
         2. Our commitment to mission gives us direction to serve our neighbors, celebrate the Eucharist and share our faith.
         3. Those committed to the mission can reverse the direction of parishes that are dying. Several examples were discussed.
         4. The goal is to shift from the historical “obligations” to what we are called to do as disciples. Parishioners need to personally own discipleship as a result of an encounter with Jesus.
         5. A personal encounter with Jesus leads to a personal vocation (we each have a vocation, not simply priests, deacons, nuns and other religious). “It is who – Jesus – we know, not simply what we know that is important.
         6. More details, perspectives and presentations from the conference may be found on its website: http://www.divinerenovation.net/
      4. We need to shift the dynamic of our faith community:
         1. From: Behave. Believe. Belong.
         2. To: Belong. Believe. Behave.

This shift will enable us and free us to share our beliefs (vs. changing them). This is how we will go make disciples as Jesus has asked us all to do. This is how we become the “field hospital” that Pope Francis speaks about.

* 1. September 14th meeting:
     1. Will be called by Fr. Walter with express purpose of igniting the mission of the parish collaborative.
     2. Specifically, the Collaborative Parish Council, the Finance Councils, staff and all other prominent volunteers will receive an invitation to attend. It has been suggested that the spouses of the members of these groups also be invited. All parishioners from both parishes will also be most welcome.
  2. September 21st meeting:
     1. First CPC meeting of the season.
  3. CPC Going Forward:
     1. Ensure members of the CPC are fully immersed in the mission and supported by internal and external training, which will occur throughout the fall.
     2. Once training is complete the CPC will begin detailed work on supporting the transition to being disciples in mission.
     3. Fr. Walter indicated the CPC will have a Vice Chair to assist him by taking a lead on the agenda of the pastoral plan execution. The Vice Chair will work to keep the CPC focused and faithful to the collaborative parish plan.

1. Recommended Summer Reading from Fr. Walter:
   1. James Mallon, *Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission*.
   2. White and Corcoran, *Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter*.
   3. Sherry Weddell, *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus.* This source
   4. *Disciples in Mission: A Pastoral Plan for the Archdiocese of Boston*.
   5. Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*.
   6. *Draft Pastoral Plan for the Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative*
2. Final Prayer by the group