

## **Minutes of the Between the Lakes Planning Team**

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at St. Francis Solanus Church, Interlaken

**Present:** Gerry Frank, Karl Messmer, Stephanie Houck, Kathy Sinkiewicz, Lee Anne Fox, Karen Rinefierd, Fr. Bernard, Fr. Brendan, Barbara Willers, Kathleen Rourke, Jennifer Sharp & Bob Duthie

The meeting began with the Unity Prayer.

### ***Updates:***

A joint Pastoral Council meeting was held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Bob Duthie reported that it went well. Each church is to ask for volunteers for new Pastoral Council which will be made up of five individuals from each church location. There was discussion regarding how to make all feel welcome at each church location once the new mass schedule begins. They also discussed possibly starting a car pool for those individuals that had to travel to a new church location.

The joint Finance Council plans on meeting next Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Reaction from April Parishioner Meetings regarding the two proposed new mass schedules:***

- We reviewed the summary that Karen prepared regarding feedback from these five meetings.
- It was pointed out that the St. Francis team members felt remiss in not consulting with Sandy Huhn, their music leader when discussing mass times. She felt that having an extra 15 minutes would be helpful when preparing for mass. Therefore St. Francis would like to move the proposed time from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.
- St. James wanted to point out that the TCAT (public transportation) does not run outside of Tompkins County therefore would not be able to transport parishioners to St. Francis or Holy Cross.
- Representatives from both Holy Cross and St. James felt the 9:15 a.m. was the most popular mass time proposed.
- Concern was raised again that the 8 a.m. is too early for the young families of St. Francis and there is risk that they will stop coming to church. The young families have voiced that they will continue to try to get kids up and make the early mass.

### ***Discussion to determine weekend mass schedule:***

- It was proposed that we look at setting up the schedule so Father is traveling from North to South or South to North as opposed to starting at St. Francis (in the middle). The following points were made:
  - Makes sense for Father's travel, getting quickly from one church to another and for Father being able to spend more time after each mass.
  - Karen pointed out that the mid-morning mass is the most popular and you typically would want this mass at your largest location to maintain the most parishioners.

- If the 8 a.m. were at H.C. it would create too significant of a change in time considering their current mass times.
- Holy Cross was concerned that when there was bad weather it would be hard for their parishioners to get to the early mass.
- The consensus was that St. Francis should have early mass.
- Now that we have decided St. Francis will have the early mass, should the 9:30 a.m. mass be at St. James or Holy Cross?
  - Holy Cross feels they will maintain the greatest population by having the 9:30 a.m. mass.
  - St. James representatives were split on the decision that 9:30 a.m. vs. 11 a.m. would make a significant difference in maintaining parishioners. One representative thought that a 9:30 Mass at S.J. would be a good compromise for the people currently going to either 8:00 or 10:30 and felt that the 8 a.m. mass goes would end up going to Ithaca if the mass were later. The other felt that many would go to Saturday night or a later morning Sunday mass at S.J.
  - It was pointed out that St. James parishioners, although losing one mass, will continue to have two options. S.F. & H.C. will each only have one mass time.
  - Group took a break after discussion became intense and reflected on options.
  - After reflection, group came to consensus on the following new mass schedule:
    - 8:15 a.m. at St. Francis Solanus, Interlaken
    - 9:30 a.m. at Holy Cross, Ovid
    - 11 a.m. at St. James the Apostle, Trumansburg
  - Please note: Barb Willers stated that she thought it made more sense for the 9:30 Mass to be at St James.
- Saturday Night Mass Discussion
  - It was brought up that it made sense to have the Saturday Night mass at St. Francis because of its central location. St. Francis prefers a Sunday morning mass and St. James (our largest population) should not be reduced from three to one mass therefore Saturday night will remain at S.J.
  - There was a request from some St. James parishioners to move the Saturday night mass to 4 or 4:30 p.m. The team felt that there were enough changes being made at this time and decided to keep the mass at 5 p.m. at this time.
- When should we begin the new mass schedule?
  - Mid- May there should be a decision by Bishop regarding the merger.
  - First Sunday of June would be a good time to implement.

***Communication:***

- Father Bernard will create announcement regarding new mass schedule and it should be announced every Sunday until change occurs.
- Karen asked about newspaper publications in the area to send out press release. Kathy S. is going to assist Karen in getting it into the papers.
- Karen also relayed that we should put up signage at each location announcing change.

- There was concern regarding summer parishioners that may not read paper or be at mass to hear announcement. It was suggested that each parish reach out to those individuals to let them know.

***Additional Questions:***

- Liturgical Ministers – with new mass schedule how is the scheduling of this going to change? It was suggested that coordinator at each church reach out to everyone to see what mass they will attend and if they will continue to serve. Once that information is gathered they can begin new schedule.
- Weekday mass schedule – will this change? Father Bernard said there will be no change at this time.

***Next Meeting:***

- Wednesday, May 4th at 7 p.m. at St. Francis Solanus, Interlaken.
- Discuss location of parish office
- Discuss process of naming the new parish (if the merger proceeds)

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer M. Sharp*