

Parish Life Committee–Leadership Social

October 23, 2019

Attendees: Helen Brennen, Nancy Huntley-Kraus, Diana Weber, Marilyn Polito, Kate Hartzler, Kristine Vanderwiell, Britta Heidenreich, Joan Jones, Liz Wilt-Cable, Joyce Greving, Mary Christy, Nancy Heideman, Joe Holub, Mary Zimmerman

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm with welcome, introductions and opening prayer.

Sue Scoles gave a report on action items taken as the result of our Fall Leadership Social 2018. The focus of our discussion last year was communication and keeping members of our groups informed. The intent was more information would assist in creating more engagement. Actions taken included: strategies to increase focus on the Parish Web Site and accuracy of information shared, providing feedback on the Time and Talent Survey, and use of the @stceciliaparish.org website domain list. These topics were discussed and reviewed.

Each leader at the meeting then shared a 2-3-minute update of their group including 2018 achievements and current barriers if applicable. Groups reporting included; Bereavement Committee, Playgroup, Funeral Meals, St Gerard's Circle, St Mary's Circle, CAYAC, Prayer Chain, Welcome Committee, and Funeral Lunch Committee. What is working well was a long list that included; increase membership in some groups, wonderful volunteers, Let's stay connected, My Picture Missal for children, Ice-Cream social, and quality of service projects within groups. A key barrier identified was how to increase membership in select groups (including younger members) and also how to engage participation among members within groups. For example, funeral lunch meal prep and servers could use more members and key members are called on upon often for help.

Sue shared the 2019/2020 Parish Life Committee Initiatives. *(1) Develop communication methods to tell the story of Parish Life Committee.* Actions have included participation in the 2019 Ministry Fair, Continuation of the Parish Life Fall Leadership Social, and Maintaining accuracy of Parish Life Groups web site information. *(2) Organize a parish-wide service projects, in coordination with Social Justice Committee.* Actions have included a brainstorming session to identify projects, assignment of a committee liaison to work with Social Justice Committee and determine project and timeline.

Nancy Huntley-Kruse reported on the proposed Parish-wide Service Project. The project is to conduct a collection of "personal paper products" to benefit area organizations that provide shelter and/or daycare services to our brothers and sisters in need. Collections will take place in the Narthex over the weekends of January 18-19 and 25-26, 2020. The second weekend is in coordination with Catholic Schools Week. Potential beneficiaries include; Parishioners in need, Martha's House of Hope, Friendship Ark Homes, Emergency Residence Project, ACCESS, Matthew 25 House, Butterfly House, Wings of Refuge, and MICA. Nancy asked that leaders

present share the information with their groups to begin to generate enthusiasm for the project and when time approaches consider volunteering to assist with collecting and/or distribution of collected products. A suggestion was made to contact these agencies prior to collection to determine their available storage space for products.

Based on the list of barriers shared by group leaders this evening, a brainstorming activity to identify strategies for “membership engagement and recruitment of new members” was completed. Making a Personal Connection and asking people to participate seems to be the #1 strategy identified by each group, Additional ideas; arrange transportation to/from meetings, coffee/donut greeters, monthly spotlight w/table in Narthex, Nametag Sunday, the need for more church wide social events, reach out to our Hispanic groups, offer childcare for meetings, send postcard invitation to join, reach out to Welcoming Committee for new member list, develop a consistent communication message about “needs” within the parish and share at Mass and in bulletin, ask more specific questions on the Time and Talent Survey, Parish Web Site revision as some info is hard to find. Sue thanked the group for their participation and stated that the Parish Life Committee will be taking feedback from this list and working to identify additional strategies that can be shared and used by all groups.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Scoles