

## St Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 12-14-2019

**Attendance:** Present: Tom Wietchy, Peggy Casing, Deb Valot, Fr. Stan (Visiting)

**Absent:** Cheryl Garneau

The Meeting began with talk about the Chapel presentation: about Father Stan's contact with the Unleash the Gospel coordinator, plans for changing/modifying the Parish Council and Commission Meetings, and feedback from the National Catholic Reporter article about a recent Young Adult Synod in San Diego that was brought up in the chapel meeting. Peggy then proceeded to give her report on **Religious Education:** Concerning the RCIA Program, Peggy shared that with Rite of Acceptance/Welcoming in early December that the group of seven members should remain stable through the culmination of the RCIA process at Easter. Of the seven members, two are scheduled for Baptism and five for full Communion. **Gift/Adult Ed:** The Gift Christmas celebration on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> was a success. Over two hundred children and family members attended. Like with the schools in the area, the Religious Education Office will close from Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> to Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Peggy ended by saying that she want to talk about whether the Education Commission would in the future want to meet on a different day and time, maybe even in an online platform. She would look to discuss more of that in the spring time. About this time Father Stan visited and picked up that discussion about possible changes in the Parish Council meetings—days, times, and frequency. Father Stan mentioned that officially the Archdiocese will require at least two Parish Council meetings a year: One that covered the Six Areas covered by the Strategic Guide, the Other that dealt with Spiritual Growth as laid out in the "Unleash the Gospel" program. Father Stan said that the Parish Council will meet monthly until March, then decisions will be made about any changes to the Parish Council meetings. Father Stan then briefly commented on the Young Adult ministry mentioned during the Chapel time. He said that in addition to larger group meetings there needs to be follow ups to those larger presentations.

Deb Valot then gave the **Evangelization** report: Deb stated that the Evangelization committee's Christmas handouts, the Matthew Kelly book, "**Rediscover the Saints,**" and the Bookmark listing key religious events are ready to pass out. At today's chapel meeting, there is a signup sheet for volunteers to pass these out after Christmas Mass. In February the Evangelization Committee will sponsor a showing of the movie "The Divine Plan" a story about Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul's efforts to defeat communism in eastern Europe. The Parish Mission is on target for March 10-14 during Lent. While one of the days is Election Day, that should not impact the Parish Mission which will be in the Church. Deb then showed a copy of the Prayer Cards that will be available in the Chapel. The beautiful card can be sent to a person for whom someone is praying. It follows the idea that when we pray for someone, it's also good to let someone know we are keeping them in our Prayers. We wished Deb and Clem Valot well since both are taking a sabbatical and will be out of town from February until sometime this summer. God Bless!

Merry Christmas!

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Wietchy