

Minutes of October 12, 2020

Cathedral of St Joseph Welcome Committee Meeting

Dena Brand welcome everyone one and led with an opening prayer

Introductions/ roll call were made. Julie Gates was introduced as an ad hoc member of the Committee. She is the Volunteer Coordinator for the parish and can be a resource for us in answering questions regarding what opportunities are available for the newly registered parishioners to become involved in and included in parish life.

An article from Archdiocese of St Louis on Welcoming New Parishioners was read and briefly discussed. Fr Nelen had provided this article to the Committee and encouraged the Committee to remember the suggestions included in this article when reaching out to new parishioners.

The basic format in welcoming newly registered families in our Cathedral Parish was discussed (send a post card to the family; contact the family within 2 weeks by phone to get acquainted with them and answer any questions they might have regarding the parish and parish life). The postcard has a small space in which a personal note can be made. Several thoughts were expressed that the sender could tell the family that they would be calling them and provide contact information in case the family wanted to reach out to them.

Ways to **welcome** families were discussed. Each committee member signed up for a month to be responsible for reaching out to and welcoming new parishioners who registered during the month in which they chosen (copy attached). The Committee decided that individual members would keep in contact with "their" families for a year, reaching out to them to inform and invite them to events or opportunities being sponsored by the parish (e.g., Christmas Bazaar Drive Thru Dinner, Advent Services, school plays, etc.). Copies of the current Parish Resource Book and Directory were made available to each member. All were encouraged to read the beginning section of the resource book to become better acquainted with our parish and the various Committees and ministries at the Cathedral.

The Committee proposed asking the pastor to have a prayer petition for all the newly registered families included in the prayer petitions during all of the weekend Masses once a month. It was expressed that this should occur on the same weekend each month, for instance the last weekend of the month. (Fr Nelen has given permission to have a prayer petition for the newly registered parishioners once a month.)

The Committee also expressed interest in sponsoring a name tag weekend, inviting each parishioner attending a Mass to put on a name tag. This would hopefully help us to learn the names of those who sit around us at Mass. The Committee indicated that it would be good to have the prayer petition for the newly registered families and the name tag event to occur on the same weekend each month. (Fr Nelen endorsed the idea of the name tag weekend but indicated that would need to be postponed for a while due to the COVID concerns.)

A suggestion was made to have as part of the agenda at each meeting a more in-depth discussion on a topic such as ways to become a stewardship parish; new or different ways of reaching out to our parishioners to welcome them, etc.

The current mission statement for the Welcome Committee states “Welcome newly registered parishioners with a phone call or letter and help coordinate receptions.” It was recommended that the phrase “help coordinate receptions” be eliminated. We recommend that our mission statement indicate that we “welcome newly registered parishioners with a postcard of Welcome followed by a phone call to get better acquainted with our new members.”

The Committee expressed an interest in continuing to meet in-person if possible, weather and other conditions permitting. If necessary, arrangements might be made to meet via Zoom. It was also decided to have quarterly meetings and that future meetings would be scheduled on a second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the St Joseph room.

Dena led the closing prayer

Next meeting: Monday, January 11, 2021

Lori Antweiler __X	Brandon Atchison __Absent
Cristal Backer __X	Pat Biggerstaff __X
Dena Brand __X	Julie Gramlich __X
Brenda Haugen __X	Ashlie Lester __X
Marilyn Nobbman __X	Lori Stoll __X
Marie Walden __X	Mary Walsh __X