ACT Meeting Notes

Sept. 4, 2019

**Present:** Craig O’Leary, Kathleen Frank, Maureen McNabb, Wendy Hinerman, Shandi Nodurft, Chris Muroski, Tom Burgoyne, Joe Saseen, Kathleen Dieffenbaugher, Rich Emmerth, Rick Riedel, Shirley McCloskey, Chris Tiu, Marian Mullin, Missy Tiu, Jamey Brogan, Emma O’Leary.

Fr. Carlos and Fr. Martin joined us at 7:00pm

**Opened** with the Prayer to Saint Michael

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Support for Abuse Survivors: Absent

Support for Our Priests: Kathleen discusses showing our support for our priests by asking parishioners to send them a note or an email sharing a way that the priest has affected them in a positive way…a homily that was meaningful, a kind word or deed, etc.

Maureen suggests that we plan an event around the “Support Your Priest” day on Sept. 29th.

Support for our Youth/School: Absent

Restore Trust in Our Church Leaders: Chris M. reports on the following:

\*Importance of financial transparency at the parish level and the diocesan level.

At the parish level:

Finance Council minutes will be posted on our parish website

A town hall meeting is being planned to address finances

Finance Council has drafted a letter with church and school finances that will be posted in the bulletin

The bulletin will provide an explanation of Diocesan collections to clear up envelope confusion

At the DWC level:

We have a new Bishop at the helm

There is a new audit firm

Go to DWC website for updates

\*Everyone has the right to ask questions! Chris is inviting people to share their questions with her: parish or diocesan. You can call or email her if interested. (304)233-4785 OR [beroski99@frontier.com](mailto:beroski99@frontier.com)

Heal and Grow our Parish: Jamey B. reports on Restorative Justice (RJ). RJ is a different way of approaching conflict. It is a way that focuses on the harms done on the community and ways to heal the harms that lead to rebuilding trust. This approach can be used for a specific harm done or for a malaise of the community.

The approach is not easy, it is not magic, and it is time consuming. But it is effective.

The Archdiocese of Minneapolis has been using RJ and is willing to come to our diocese to train. We have a varied group from around the state that are working on using it for healing our diocese.

RJ does not replace the traditional conduct process.

**Successes reviewed** as per agenda

**Current Projects:**

Our letter from St. Michael’s was hand-delivered to the new Bishop by Fr. Carlos. No feedback has been received yet, as the Bishop is traveling the state. The Bishop will be at St. Michael’s to celebrate the Feast Day on Sept. 27th at 10:00am.

**Next Steps:**

Pastoral Council will sponsor a Steak Fry to support teacher bonuses in April. Discussed Festival funds and where the money goes. We cannot wait for diocesan support, we need to stand up for the mission of our school. The Steak Fry can shine the light on the need for increased teacher pay within our school.

Fr. Carlos explains that every penny that goes to the school stays there…no assessment from the Diocese. Currently, every penny that goes to our CSA campaign will stay at the church. This is the opportunity for those people that don’t want their money to go to DWC to continue to donate to our church.

Fr. Carlos further explains the 3 sources of money for the school:

1. Tuition
2. Fundraising
3. Parish subsidy

Fr. Carlos explains a letter that he wrote to the Bishop asking him to relieve our parish of our debt to the Diocese. In turn, our parish will launch a campaign to raise that same amount of money that would go to support the school.

**Meeting closed** with Prayer for Healing Within Our Church

Next meeting: TBD