

## **PASTORAL PLANNING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **March 2020**

#### **Goal One: One united Faith Community with one Catholic Identity, One Parish.**

- A. Promote a Unified Catholic Identity for the Catholic Community of Meadville**
- B. Develop one combined interactive parish with services, programs and events consolidated.**
- C. Identify an ad hoc Liturgy and Worship Committee to study and develop a unified plan for worship services.**
  - ++ More than half affirmed the unification based on need for stronger faith community
    - Reasons given for unified faith community-- listed as need, space, timing is now, decline of attendance, finances
  - ++ Some suggested going from 3 to 2 churches instead of one
  - ++ Name one church for worship site, one for fellowship and classroom site
  - ++ Strong affirmation for new name to unify
  - ++ Strong allegiance to their native/home parish
  - ++ Negative comments on new construction or choosing a new site
- ++ Strong agreement for blending of ministries, unification of services, events, etc.
- ++ Maintain some traditions/activities from each parish; create new ones

#### **Goal Two: Become more of a vibrant and welcoming Parish that is inclusive and encourages participation.**

- A. Welcome new parishioners**
- B. Recruit and maintain greeters to ensure presence at all masses at each entrance.**
- C. Be inclusive as possible regarding those engaged in the ministries of greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and ushers.**
- D. Develop ways for all parishioners to be more of a welcoming and hospitable faith community.**
  - ++ Positive affirmation for need of greeters to welcome and foster hospitality
  - ++ Re-enforced importance and need for training of greeters and all ministers
  - ++ Encourage Welcome Packet, welcome dinners and new names in communications
  - ++ Encourage newcomers to participate and get to know parishioners and parishioners to welcome and invite participation from newer members.

Concerns: Accessibility for handicapped; accommodating them to participate in liturgy

#### **Goal Three: Through Seton School and a Strong Religious Education Program focus on youth and young adults and employ a Youth Director.**

- ++ Strong affirmation for hiring a youth director
- ++ Some do not understand the difference between faith formation director and youth director roles and need for both
- ++ Negatives for this expressed is the financial cost
- ++ Some voiced that volunteers could do this

- ++ Strengthen the relationship between Seton and Religious Education, curriculum, activities, prayer, and service
- ++ Strengthen the preparation for Confirmation
- ++ Include youth in small groups
  - Integrate youth into parish life, participation in ministries, service, activities

Concerns:

- Need for education about what the faith formation, religious education director entails- responsibilities, role in parish, training and commitment
- Need for education and understanding of role and scope of responsibilities for Youth Director

**Goal Four: Continue to foster evangelization and life-long formation opportunities that supports family life and values.**

- ++ Affirm offering of classes and opportunities for faith formation
- ++ Some prefer various times for offerings
- ++ Variety and types of opportunities to reach many interests, ages, topics
- ++ Difficulty for the working people to attend due to commitments
- ++ Opportunities for youth
- ++ Access to bibles, adoration, different types of prayer

Concerns: How many actually attend

**Goal Five: Focusing on broadening the efforts of communication to reach more audiences.**

- ++ Strong use of Communication is necessary and vital; Bulletins is primary with social media necessary for those who use it
- ++ Strong support for use of social media
- ++ Those who do not have access or interest in computers, social media use is not encouraged
- ++ Use various forms of sharing information—all types of media, advertisements,
- ++ Refresh and re-format bulletin seen as helpful for future
- ++ Affirmed current use of social media—My Parish app, face-book, email , etc.

**Goal Six: Evaluate current outreach opportunities and establish ways to encourage and enhance more outreach and volunteers.**

- ++ Important to invite, especially personally invite to become members, volunteers—use social media, bulletins, etc.
- ++ Promote volunteers, encourage new ones; especially younger ones cross volunteer among parishes
- ++ Recognize the volunteers, staff;
- ++ Pictorial Directory – responses varied from – no interest to very helpful
- ++ Continue all parish activities and events like parish picnic, dinners, etc.
- ++ Foster a culture of participation for as many as possible within the parishes; include youth when feasible
- ++ Publicize opportunities to volunteer and participate

## **Goal Seven: One Unified Faith Community with One Parish and One Worship Space**

### **Goal Eight: Become One Parish Canonically and Legally**

- ++ Strong support and time for unification to One parish
- ++ Strong Affirmation for new name
- ++ Strong history and cultural identity of each parish
- ++ Importance of building one vibrant unified faith community; some understand that the buildings are secondary
- ++ Financial concerns
- ++ Have a rite of passage, grieving, service for closure of buildings
- ++ Rituals for celebrating the new

#### Study of options –

##### St. Agatha

- Most agree has the bigger worship space
- Check rumor of foundation issues
- Large renovated rectory; parish offices
- Social Center

##### St. Brigid

- Space for classrooms and meetings
- Social Hall for dinners
- Stained Glass Windows-distinct and unique; valued

##### St. Mary's

- Newer construction
- More Parking
- Kitchen and dining space for gatherings, dinners
- Classroom space
- Sell or demolish St. Mary rectory
- Available adjacent property – possibly access

##### St. Mary's and St. Agatha

- Possible room for expansion
- Could be better representation for all of Meadville

##### St. Brigid and St. Agatha

- One Campus in close proximity for worship, classrooms, meetings, dinners
- Close to school