

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TRANSITION TEAM
MEETING MINUTES

The fifth meeting of the Catholic Community Transition Team was held on December 11, 2017 at 6 PM in St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable, NY.

Present: Fr. Tom Kornmeyer, Deacon Brian Dwyer, Brenda Chatland, Pat Matthews, Joelle Lamica, Lori Tulip, Dale M. Selkirk, Betty Cook, Sharon Mallette, Paula Boyea, Richard Onufer, Angie Bashaw, Gerald Rufa, Peggy Lester, Jack LaCroix, Alicia Charland, Jen Reardon, Lynda Jones

Father opened the meeting with a prayer. He announced that he was granted a one month extension (January 31, 2018) to submit our Pastoral Proposal to the Bishop. Keep in mind this is only a proposal and the Bishop will approve or disapprove what is submitted. Our proposal should include increments over a period of time. We are ok as long as we continue to have two Priests as we have discussed many times. He further stated that the longer we continue with the current structure, the less time we will have Fr. Looby. We are asking a lot of him.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Pat asked if all of the suggestions from the Sub-Committees will be addressed in the proposal and Fr. Tom said they would be included.

Angie (**Faith Formation Sub-Committee-Report Attached**) stated there have been many comments from people. Losing the Saturday night Mass in Bombay might be a bigger loss than the others because of the geography of the people who attend. The loss of Saturday Mass in Westville might not have such an impact. Westville people would probably go to Fort Covington.

Father said many people have told him that the Ft. has lost a lot (Hogansburg Church) and he is very aware of their losses. It is a concern of his to have a pastoral presence there. They have lost more than the rest of the churches.

Angie noted that the attendance at the information meeting stands for itself. (Approx 60 people) .

Father Tom's Mass Proposal (2 priests) First Option

8 or 8:30 AM	Ft. Covington
9:30 AM	Constable
10:30 AM	Chateaugay
4:30 PM (Saturday)	Westville

Seasonal	Bombay - Holy Days – Winter – Oct 1- Memorial Day
Seasonal	Burke - Holy Days - Summer – June 1 – Sept. 30

Second Option – (2 priests)

Same as above and cut the Masses in half

Comments:

Dick suggested planning for one Priest. Could leave Chateaugay at 11 AM Mass or keep Constable at 9 AM. He also stated there will be a significant financial hit to Constable if Westville closes. There is a large group of people from Malone who attend OLOF.

- Deacon was concerned about the financial hit to Chateaugay, Ft. Covington & Bombay
- Father noted that there will be a financial hit to all the churches when all parishioners start moving around.
- Pat suggested that the group make a proposal now.

More discussion took place regarding seasonal closing dates, Mass times, parishioners' needs, ages, travel difficulties, financials, and boundaries.

Administrative Sub-Committee (report attached) Jack has been in contact with the Diocesan Planning Office (see attached letter) whereby Fr. Chris Carrara explained the process the Pastors must follow in facilitating a completed Document of Planning to Bishop LaValley who makes the final decisions.

Attached also is a response to several of our financial questions from the Diocesan Fiscal Officer, Michael Tooley. Jack reported that the committee looked into the Hogansburg (St. Patrick's) assessment and found that it will be completed next year.

Jerry said that the committee suggests having the Financial Councils meet monthly and report to the Pastor. Father stated he will be working on reorganization of the Parish Councils in the near future. There was a suggestion that the Parish Council Minutes be published on the web site. The committee recommends central bookkeeping services, a central office for all the parishes, competitive bidding on all services, one weekly Bulletin, a free energy audit, and looking into on line contributions. Peggy added that the budget vs. actual is easier to understand.

It is obvious that this committee is committed to the wants and needs of the people.

Father stated he has received paperwork from the Diocese regarding the consolidation of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's. All the churches except those two are now incorporated.

Deacon reminded the group that expenses have to be cut where possible and the Parishioners could think about holding events that would help with Parish expenses. St. Patrick's Church has opened a new Thrift Store in Chateaugay in addition to the seasonal Country Patch Store on Rt. 11. Both have proved to be very successful.

Father Tom made another proposal: Third Option

The proposal submitted to the Bishop at the end of January will leave Mass times and locations as they are at the present time.

This will be in effect as long as there are two Priests.

In the event the six Parishes are served by only one Priest, this will occur:

There will be three churches open to serve the population: They are:

St. Patrick's in Chateaugay

St. Mary's of the Fort

St. Francis of Assisi in Constable

Mass times and locations to be determined

The times and locations of the five Masses previously discussed have been removed from the table and will be addressed at the January meeting.

There was a general agreement of consensus by those present.

Should we have to resort to the one Priest schedule, Dick suggested the following Mass times and locations: Constable – Saturday afternoon because of their central location and Sunday Mass at Chateaugay and Ft. Covington. Times to be determined. This will be placed on the January meeting Agenda. Father will also contact the Personnel Director relative to the number of priests currently assigned in Massena (St. Lawrence Co.)

Alicia (**Liturgical Sub-Committee**) reminded everyone that part of the proposal submitted to the Bishop should show the needs of the churches. The Diocese offers many kinds of workshops on many subjects and we only need to ask for help. She asked for suggestions. Deacon agreed we can hold meetings, seminars, etc. on whatever subject the Parishioners feel we need. We all need to work together.

Joelle reported that the **Outreach Committee** will meet and present a report at the January meeting.

Dick asked if there were programmable thermostats in all buildings. This will be referred to the **Building Sub-Committee**.

Brenda asked if there could be training for lay personnel on conducting prayer services. Fr. Tom agreed there should be some people trained in case of an emergency. He will provide instructions of what to do in case the Priest is not available.

A reminder was given to review the census cards to see if there were any requests for services or any special requests to see a Priest.

It was also noted that envelopes received from other parishes are returned unopened to their home parish.

Deacon was asked to add prayers to the Prayers of the Faithful for the spiritual and financial success of all our parishes.

Deacon offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 3 at 6 PM - St. Francis.

Fr. Tom Kornmeyer, Pastor

Lynda Jones
Recorder

