

Christ Our Hope Pastoral Council Meeting – Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019 – Protivin Community Center

Mission Statement: The Christ Our Hope Cluster offers meaningful, fulfilling and varied avenues of worship, Catholic education, social service and community life for all ages within our six parishes to support the active practice of Catholic faith in all that we do.

Adoration: 6:30PM Holy Trinity Church, Protivin

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Steve Busta (ABVM)

Members present: Steve Busta (ABVM), Maxine Balk (SM), Kathleen Chicken (SM), Barbara Shatek (SJ),
Melvin Bodensteiner (SL), Cheryl Mracek (HT), Julianne Kout (OLMC), Gail Carolan (OLMC)

Members absent: Leon Wiemann (ABVM), Roger Ott (SJ), Clair Blong (SL), Kyle Fencl (HT)

COH Staff: Grace Arens-Pastoral Associate

Prayer led by Fr. Aaron Junge, Pastor

Review of Minutes from Thurs., Nov. 29, 2018 Approved.

Review of Cluster Financial Condition

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS

Faith Formation Commission – decision to transition from a Director of Faith Formation model to
a Director of Evangelization

Martin Ahrndt tendered his resignation effective at the end of his current contract.

JOB DESCRIPTION for Director of Evangelization – prepared and presented by Fr. Aaron
based on the needs of Christ Our Hope Cluster
a copy can be found on the COH website

JOB SEARCH will begin immediately and will take time to find the right candidate. Expect no noticeable change next year.

GOAL: to work toward true discipleship with those who are members of our Catholic community, as well as going out to share our faith with those who no longer practice the faith and reach out to those who do not know Christ.

CLUSTER REALITIES: decline in participation—we need to focus on the whole family, not just the children, to respond to the call of the Lord right now and discern the areas of need for the life of the cluster.

DEMOGRAPHICS – Fr. Aaron received a 15-year trend breakdown by parish for the six parishes in our cluster.

Numbers on the whole are declining in numbers of parishioners and administration of sacraments.

CURRENTLY: Cluster-wide there is an uptick in weddings and baptisms but seeing the majority of these families return as active and lifelong members is not happening yet.

FUTURE: Meet Christ and move forward. Start forming ourselves as disciples from the bottom up with those who already participate. We need to start a plan of action starting at each parish level.

CHALLENGE: This situation is real! Don't give into fear. First take care of ourselves spiritually. The numbers of the faithful will come back eventually. The Lord can work in dire circumstances. Pray, pray, pray.

PLAN OF ACTION: Cluster Council members given four (4) questions to discuss and reflect on with their fellow parishioners at all levels of involvement and bring back the answers to the next meeting.

Father Aaron wants honest feedback—thoughts, reflections, reactions, etc.

NEW CLUSTER OFFICE SECRETARY – welcome Sara Harrison who will start on March 19, 2019

UPDATES from Father Aaron: shared moments from his Holy Land pilgrimage & plans to share on four Sundays in Lent.
good progress being made with his health challenges –prayers are greatly appreciated.

CLOSING PRAYER: Glory Be

Adjournment: 8:15PM

NEXT MEETING: **Thursday, April 25, 2019 7PM Protivin Community Center**

Respectfully submitted,
Maxine Balk – Recording Secretary

