

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 1, 2012

Members Present: Barbara Burkhardt, Kim Cernek, Tom Cordaro, Desmond Curran, Dan Dulik, Gus Fischer, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Steve Schroeder, Sue Schroeder, Terry Wagner, Larry Williams

Members Absent: Divia Ludwig

Guest Presenter: Ray Jeffreys

Discernment Candidate Guests: John Gaynor, Mike Newell, Barb Zdon

Pastoral Council President Desmond Curran called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP. Larry Williams opened tonight's meeting with prayer.

INTRODUCTIONS: Desmond welcomed tonight's guests, including Men's Club President Ray Jeffreys, along with several of the discernment candidates, who were in attendance as observers at tonight's meeting as part of the discernment process to fill two At-Large Council Member positions. After introductions were made by all meeting attendees, Desmond then requested, per the constitution rules, that these guests quietly observe tonight's meeting without their being allowed to speak (unless specifically asked) or vote.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2012 MINUTES:

The Pastoral Council approved the minutes for April 3, 2012, as amended, with Gus Fischer moving, Larry Williams seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these. The minutes, along with the Commission and Ad Hoc Committee Reports, will now be posted to the Council's online web page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Outdoor Summer Evening Music Concert (7/14/12): According to Desmond, Brian Pelz, Contemporary Choir Director, confirmed the musicians'/choir's interest in performing *pro bono* at an outdoor summer evening concert on the parish lawn, with the choir offering several available dates for this. After checking with Mike Prus about parish scheduling, the 7/14/12 date is now confirmed for this. Desmond noted that the Men's Club is already working on some logistics for this concert, with an indoor back-up plan for inclement weather. The Men's Club is also working on obtaining necessary permits for the outdoor venue. It was also noted that beer and/or wine could not be vended at this, although donations could be accepted. The last summer concert, held two years ago, was moved indoors due to the weather and also raised \$2,000 through free-will donations for the Charitable Contributions Committee. It was noted that it would be important to make sure that costs are covered for this event.

Further discussion with Brian Pelz and the choir is recommended concerning any free-will contributions which might be received for this upcoming concert. Concert attendees will also be encouraged to bring their own food, drinks, and seating in a “Ravinia style” fashion, with this concert planned as a celebration and parish community-building effort, rather than for fundraising.

Council/Staff “Get Acquainted” Dinner (8/24/12) and Workshop Day (8/25/12):

Working with the Staff’s suggested dates of 8/18 and 8/25, Council selected the latter for the annual Council/Staff Workshop Day. Larry Williams and Barbara Burkhardt offered to host the “Get Acquainted” Dinner on 8/24/12 (Friday night).

All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA) 8th Grade Graduation (5/25/12 – 7:00 p.m.):

Maintaining a tradition set over the past several years, Council Members will represent SMMP by attending this graduation. While Kim Cernek (as ASCA Staff) and Fr. Paul will already be participating in this, Sue Schroeder and Dan Dulik will also attend and represent Council .

Ministry Fair (5/20/12): The annual Ministry Fair will be held at SMMP after all of the Sunday Masses on 5/20/12 – this will also be paired with Hospitality Sunday. If Council would like to request a table at this fair, Mike Prus, Parish Business Manager, needs to be contacted by 5/17/12. After some discussion, it was decided that Council would not set up a table.

PRESENTATION ON SMMP MEN’S CLUB: Men’s Club President, Ray Jeffreys, gave a PowerPoint presentation update about SMMP’s Men’s Club. Following Drew Piraino’s establishing this in 1981, the Men’s Club currently has 150 members, averaging 60-70 members in monthly meeting attendance (also including some former SMMP parishioners and original founding members). With fellowship, service, and contribution being the Men’s Club “three-legged stool,” Ray reported that the Men’s Club has raised \$10,000 for service and \$100,000 for contributions since 1997, with contributions split between charitable and parish property/plant-related projects. Terry Wagner, Finance Committee Chair, stated that the Finance Committee does an annual audit of the Men’s Club, noting that the Men’s Club’s accounting is “very professional” and “impressive.”

Likewise, Tom Cordaro noted that SMMP’s Men’s Club serves as an outstanding model program among numerous other parishes. Among parish property/plant contributions recently made, the Men’s Club has assisted with purchase of new indoor/outdoor signage, a snow thrower, an ice machine, and beverage refreshments at the recent St. Patrick’s Day Dinner and Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. One possible targeted new project includes handicapped accessible church entrance doors.

The annual Parish Picnic has continued to serve as the Men’s Club’s primary fundraiser for the past 25 years. The *April in Parish* service weekend also remains an important annual project. Ray noted that six parishioners were identified as recipients for this year’s *April in Parish* service project work, with a labor force comprised of 48 volunteers

(also including a couple of Boy Scouts and a few non-parishioners). Meanwhile, the Men's Club is heading participant sign-up for *Feed My Starving Children* (5/5/12).

DISCUSSION ON “BUILDING ENERGY” WITHIN THE PARISH: [*Visionary Topic #2 - Building Energy* was electronically submitted in advance by Desmond Curran, a copy of which is attached hereto].

Council shared thoughts about why they volunteered and what the positives and negatives about this were. Some of their comments included:

- believing in this as being worth one's time and effort
- having the ability and proper skill set to successfully do a particular task
- having a real passion for a particular cause/outcome and enjoying the associated people
- having a good individual “fit” for their personal talents
- creating mutual respect
- forming good relationships and community building
- setting a good example for one's own children about volunteerism

Council then continued its discussion about what it could/should do in facilitating greater parishioner involvement in parish programs/activities. It further defined its role as visioning, strategically planning, reaching out to parishioners as ambassadors, and encouraging subsidiarity among these volunteers. One idea suggested was that it might be possible to set up a database of those who have a particular skill or who are interested in contributing to a particular effort.

With the annual Ministry Fair again being scheduled on 5/20/12, it was noted that this event is traditionally held in May, especially to recruit Religious Education catechists needed for the following school year. However, many potential volunteers who sign up for other committees and ministries at this spring Ministry Fair frequently “lose momentum” and interest if they are not contacted during the following months. In addition, certain seasonal ministries have little recruiting appeal or need during the month of May. Although the Commissions and numerous parish committees were invited to hold ministry sign-up's according to their more seasonal needs at other Hospitality Sunday's offered throughout 2011-12, there was no response received for this.

Although plans will continue for the upcoming spring Ministry Fair on 5/20/12, there was general consensus that Council would recommend not doing a special Ministry Fair in the future. It was noted that the amount of work associated with putting this together outweighed the number of volunteers obtained from this effort in recent years, thereby diminishing the energy of those working on the fair without having much to show for it. It was thought that personal invitations, especially ones that match a defined need to skill and interest, would be preferred.

DISCUSSION ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING: [*Visionary Topic #3 –Advance Planning* was electronically submitted by Desmond Curran in advance, a copy of which is attached hereto].

Council discussed the need to do more long-term planning, especially to provide greater continuity over a several year period for its visioning, along with setting, implementing, and evaluating parish goals. Likewise, Council especially noted that long-term planning and goal evaluation are not frequently done due to the vast amount of time and energy needed instead for annual budget preparation and, during the past few years, for budget cuts. Due to early approval of the FY 2012-13 parish budget at last month's meeting, Council recognized what a unique additional opportunity this afforded them for the May and June meetings. One suggestion included future plans to prepare two-year rather than annual budgets, thereby focusing one year on administrative tasks, such as the budget, and the other on visioning and evaluating, including considering where the Spirit is leading us. With Council annually having a few changes in membership, it recognized how some goal and budget continuity would also be very helpful during such leadership transitions. It was also suggested by Barbara Burkhart that a program entitled "Tomorrow's Parish," used by the Archdiocese of Chicago, might be helpful for us.

Council was in consensus about continuing in 2012-13 to implement and further build upon the parish goals (originally set in August, 2011, for 2011-12). However, it noted some potential difficulties presented by the two-year budget plan, including Council's being somewhat constricted by the prior year's two-year budget. Due to this, Council indicated that more consideration would be needed with regard to this idea before moving forward.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:45-9:00 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Terry Wagner.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RETIREMENT/ FAREWELL CELEBRATION (6/3/12):

Kim Cernek reported on plans for a celebration to honor the retirement of Candy Rice (Director of High School Ministry) and bid farewell to Patti Guare (Director of Jr. High Ministry), to be held during the 10:45 a.m. Mass on 6/3/12 and immediately followed by a reception in the Upper Room. The planning committee currently includes Chairperson Patricia Vrankin, along with Bob Hansen and Kevin M. Lynch – Mary Oliphant will be coordinating the liturgy. Due to relatively short notice received for this, it was recommended that Kim talk with Mike Prus and Sr. Madelyn Gould to learn more about what the parish has previously done for previous staff retirements and anniversary celebrations.

The Council authorized the allocation of \$1,000 for use at the discretion of the Planning Committee for Candy Rice's/Patti Guare's Retirement/Farewell Celebration and/or Gift, with Terry Wagner moving, Dan Dulik seconding, and the

Council unanimously approving. This Planning Committee can also request additional donations from parishioners, if needed.

It was also noted that SMMP is one of the only parishes in the Joliet Diocese (as of 2011-12) to have two separate staff directorship positions for both Jr. High and High School Youth Ministry. Starting in 2012-13, SMMP's new Youth Ministry Director position will require the management of Jr. High and High School Ministries as two separate (but not merged) programs. This new staffing change will be more consistent with the other diocesan parishes, will also create a significant budgetary savings for SMMP, and will add greater continuity to the oversight of these programs.

DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR NEW AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Larry Williams updated Council that the candidates' final discernment meeting will be held on 5/23/12 in the Upper Room at 7:30 p.m. The six discernment candidates include: James Chitwood; John Gaynor; Michael Newell; Barbara Samuels; Marian Stricker; and Barbara Zdon. Their photos and candidate statements will appear in the parish bulletin shortly. Two of these discernment candidates will then serve as replacements for Sue Schroeder and Desmond Curran, who will be ending their three-year term as At-Large Council Members in June.

In addition to the need for gender diversity (one male and one female), Council also noted that one new At-Large Council Member should possess good business-related skills (especially in finance), with the other possessing faithfulness and a parish-minded background. Other qualities which Council deemed as important included:

- ability to be present during the meetings;
- energy and interest in wanting to try making a difference for the parish; and
- active participation in discussions and planning.

PARISH TOWN HALL MEETING (5/22/12): Desmond stated that he had received a few comments from Council prior to tonight's meeting in response to the preliminary Town Hall Meeting outline. The tentative agenda includes:

- Brief review of the 2011-12 Parish Goals (*Enhancing Communication; Studying Ways to Deal With Our Financial Situation; and Further Engaging Our Community*)
- View of How We See Our Parish (Visioning; Changes in Religious Education Staffing Structure)
- 2011-12 Commission Highlights
- Lighting Project
- Question-Answer Period (Brief)

The Council made additional plans tonight and delineated other responsibilities for the upcoming Town Hall, as follows:

- Dan Dulik will send three templates shortly to each Commission to prepare for inclusion in a PowerPoint presentation.
- Tom Cordaro's PowerPoint (with photos of recent Committee and Commission activities, as shown at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner) will be continuously shown prior to the Town Hall meeting and during the refreshment time.
- Desmond Curran and Dan Dulik will purchase refreshments.
- Barbara Burkhardt and Larry Williams will set-up and serve refreshments.
- Tom Cordaro will assist with nametags.

Special announcements about the Town Hall Meeting will be made at the Sunday Masses and will also appear in the parish bulletin. As based upon previous meeting attendance of approximately 30-40, the upcoming Town Hall Meeting is scheduled to be held in the Upper Room.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR FUNDRAISING: [*SMMP Fundraising Committee April Report Submitted by Steve Schroeder – Update as of 4/30/12* was electronically submitted in advance by Steve Schroeder, a copy of which is shown hereto].

DuPage County Hounds [Baseball] Night (7/7/12 at Benedictine University Sports Complex – 6 p.m.): Larry Williams confirmed that SMMP will receive one hundred tickets to this event and will charge \$5.00 per ticket. He will talk with Bob Hanson soon about enlisting teen help with ticket sales.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATION: [*Communication Report – May 2012* was electronically submitted in advance by Desmond Curran, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Council discussed the text in a preliminary sample parish bulletin ad, requesting submission of new parish logo designs. All logo design submissions will need to be digitally formatted, including for use on clothing items. Logo designs which have already been submitted, including those by parishioner Ed Dooley (a member of the Communication Focus Group), especially need to be gratefully acknowledged.

CHURCH LIGHTING PROJECT: Dan Dulik requested recommendations of people to serve on the church lighting fundraising committee – he will contact Deacon Terry Taylor to obtain some of these names. Additional suggestions should be e-mailed to Dan and Desmond, prior to their meeting next week with Deacon Ken Miles.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [*Administration Commission Minutes of Wednesday, April 12, 2012* were electronically sent in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Terry Wagner, Finance Committee Chair and Administration Commission Representative, reported that five lighting design firms have applied for the church

lighting project, although the Diocese of Joliet did not recommend three of these firms. Within the next couple of weeks, Administration hopes to receive proposals from the other two firms, especially for design work and construction management.

In addition, Dick Bakker and Mike Prus plan to replace loose carpet tiles in the parish library by the end of the month. Terry also noted that one church driveway entrance is currently closed due to sidewalk replacement, through the City of Naperville's sidewalk replacement program (with the parish only needing to pay for a small portion in conjunction with the City). Although one additional church driveway entrance sidewalk is still due to be replaced as part of this program, it will not be done until the former one has reopened.

Terry then reported about the following recent collections:

- \$2,330 received for Easter flowers
- \$305 received for Easter music
- \$81,580 (actual) received for Easter Holy Day; \$80,000 (budgeted)
- \$152.52 received in free will offerings for April Hospitality Sunday; each Hospitality Sunday's expenses averaging \$800 (including set-up and clean-up by Custodial Staff)

Although Terry had very recently sent out the revised 2012/13 budget for the Council's review, he also expressed hopes that he will be receiving more updated parish financial information by the end of this week. He also hopes to have the three-month parish actuals available by the upcoming Parish Town Hall Meeting.

The Council authorized Terry Wagner and the Finance Committee to make up to \$5,000 in changes to the parish budget for FY2012/13 without requiring additional Council review before the required budget submission to the Diocese of Joliet by June 1, 2012, with the understanding that this will not involve changes in programs. Dan Dulik moved, Gus Fischer seconded, and the Council unanimously approved this.

The Council also approved a budgetary increase for the 2013 Parish Volunteer Dinner, increasing this line item from \$1,500 to \$2,500, with Dan Dulik moving, Steve Schroeder seconding, and the Council unanimously approving.

Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Report -- May 2012* was electronically sent by Gus Fischer, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Gus Fischer, CWC Representative, added that greeters will be expanding some of their roles at the Sunday Masses beyond greeting at the entrances to the Church in the Narthex. Many have also received CPR training.

Christian Education (CEC): [*Christian Education Commission May Report* was electronically sent by Kim Cernek, a copy of which is shown hereto].

No additional questions were posed to Kim Cernek, CEC Representative, at tonight's meeting.

Christian Service (CSC): [CSC May 2012 Report was electronically sent by Tom Cordaro, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Divia Ludwig, CSC Representative, was absent at tonight's meeting. Tom Cordaro noted that the number of people needing financial scholarship support from SMMP's upcoming garage sale has been dwindling (while the sale itself has been gaining in popularity and funds in recent years). Tom noted that the sale will continue to raise scholarship funds for our sharing parishes in Aurora, though a group of recipients might need to be sought .

CLOSING: Desmond thanked all who were in attendance at tonight's meeting. Larry Williams then offered a closing prayer.

The meeting concluded at 10:05 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5th in Room 8 (St. Margaret Mary Parish), starting at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow at Quigley's, Naperville.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

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Visionary Topic #2 – Building Energy

1. In advance of our meeting Tuesday, please think of 1-2 activities in your life on which you spent a large amount of time, particularly something that you weren't obligated to do, like work or school, and especially things on which you worked when you simultaneously had other responsibilities (i.e., you really didn't have a lot of time to give).

Why did you perform this task in the first place?

Why did your involvement in this task stop?

Was this experience a positive one or a negative one for you? Why?

Did you again perform this or other similar tasks after you finished?

2. Hopefully, you drew some insights from the prior questions as it applies to volunteerism in our parish. However, what role can/should we as the Council play in

facilitating: a) initial involvement in our parish programs/activities? b) a positive experience in any such programs/activities? c) continued involvement in programs/activities?

- Submitted by Desmond Curran

Visionary Topic #3 – Advance Planning

Given some of the events that occurred this year that caused us, as a Council to be reactive as opposed to proactive, a question could be raised as to whether the parish should have an advance plan like a 5-year plan, for instance. It also seems to be the case this year in particular that there is a positive feeling created by not having to cut budgets. Growth and development is arguably a sign of a healthy parish, but that may require some foresight. For instance, it seems that the finance committee plans for potential repair and replacement needs several years into the future. I am not sure that planning is simply a function of finances, it arguably is a management function to which those in the business world may be very familiar.

To what degree is there advance planning in all areas of our parish? Is this something that is needed? For instance, would it be a good idea for each of the commissions to have a five-year plan? Is this something that the Council should set? If it is needed, how can this be communicated and accomplished without being viewed as just another task for which folks do not have time?

- Submitted by Desmond Curran

SMMP Fundraising Committee April Report Submitted by Steve Schroeder Update as of 4/30/12

New Fundraising Initiative/current status:

- Estate planning seminar is set with Andrea Skiera of Huck Bouma for Saturday 11/3 10AM. The presentation would be at SMMP and approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour, plus time for questions.
- Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser is Sunday 4/29. Only valid at 6450 State Rt. 53, Woodridge, IL. See flier.
- Baseball game at Illinois Benedictine. Details as to sales and distribution of tickets will be forthcoming.
- Summer Concert by SMMP Choir; Ravinia-style. Possible dates of July 7, July 8, July 14 or July 15. July 14 is the preferred date. Dave Schwartz appears to be arranging things (permits, equipment rental). Fundraising procedures geared toward church lighting.
Update...Saturday, July 14th is the selected. Also, the Choir has talked about making the concert "free" vs. a fundraiser. No decision made. More to come.

- Waiting on initial results of donations for flowers and music for Easter.
- \$1,100 raised by the recycling project. Great job!

Future fundraising under consideration:

- Christmas Tree Sponsor
- Chili-bake off
- Teen or Junior High or Elementary Pizza, pop and movie night

Recommendations for Parish Council to approve:

- Submitted by Steve Schroeder

**Communication Report
May 2012**

During this past year, there was quite a bit of work on communication, one of our goals for the year.

The Telling Our Story subcommittee planned 5 stories about people and activities in our parish to be celebrated. Four stories have appeared in the bulletin to date, covering a variety of topics, including the Men’s Club April service project, the bereavement ministry, the marriage preparation and marriage enrichment programs and Jim Vahle’s mission to a Navajo reservation in Arizona, drawing attention to these programs and projects.

Kim circulated to all of us some materials she found in some research she did on communication that were quite helpful.

With respect to the parish website, following up on the focus group in the fall on communication where it was suggested that we might look at changes to the website, we followed up with several discussions with Jim Krema, who helps update the current website. Following the first discussion, we worked on a general communication strategy for the website (a) the site should draw people to our site; b) the site should energize our parish; and c) the site should let people know who we are), but following a further communication with Jim, it was suggested that more details needed to be developed as to what we wanted from the website and we would also need to figure out how any suggested changes could be implemented with limited resources available for implementing any changes. So, it’s back to the drawing board as it pertains with the website. To the extent that there is ongoing interest in making changes to the website, further discussions would be suggested with Jim before acting on any changes.

During this year, it was also suggested that some changes be made to the bulletin, some of the suggested changes being as to form and organization. However, it was also suggested that there be a more efficient utilization of the bulletin as it has changed from a revenue center to a cost center due to its substantially greater size. The consensus from the leadership community is that Mary Straub should be consulted with respect to any ideas for the bulletin, given her years of experience with the bulletin. Further work would be needed in this area to consider how best to utilize available communication tools as the bulletin continues to be a default (and sometimes only) method of communicating parish information. Perhaps still-

better use of e-mails could be achieved, though it may take getting more folks into Constant Contact.

With respect to Hospitality Sundays, small adjustments have been made to this program since the beginning of the year, in the form of adjustments to the food selection and spacing, adjustments to the promotion, and, in April, a free will offering jar and a kids corner. It might be too early to tell how much of an impact these somewhat subtle adjustments are making, but there continues to be good attendance at the Hospitality Sundays, the free will offering jar did produce some donations (don't have the total number yet) and the signs for Hospitality Sunday did get noticed.

We also learned that personal efforts at communication that are respectful of the recipient and perhaps show a little more thought have seemed to be more successful this year. Following up on that, Dan Dulik authored a special advertisement for the town hall meeting and we will see how that is received. It would be helpful if we could employ other methods of promoting this event as well.

We also learned the importance of thanking people for their contributions, recognizing that many sacrifice a lot for the greater good of our parish.

As a leadership community, we also worked on identifying who we are as a parish, namely: 1) those who care about service to others, both locally and globally; 2) those who appreciate a sense of community and family; 3) a parish that looks at itself as much more than just gathering on Sundays; and 4) a fun, joyful and energetic group. The question is not just whether and how we fine-tune these attributes into a message (drafts of a message combining these attributes have been circulated), but whether and how we communicate a message as to who we are in our parish and outside our parish.

Finally, an idea emerged from our communication focus group about possibly creating a parish logo. Some ideas were submitted and we decided to consider this further. An idea was suggested to have a campaign soliciting new logo ideas at the beginning of the year. The attached ad was suggested.

Questions for the Council to consider:

1. Which of the above ideas or other communication ideas should be considered further?
2. To the extent that some ideas require further consideration, what type of further consideration should be employed?
3. Is the logo campaign approved and, if so, is the attached ad acceptable?

- Submitted by Desmond Curran

**SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH
ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Wednesday, April 12, 2012**

Members Present: Jeff Jameson, Michael Prus, Klaus Rummer, Terry Wagner.

Members Absent: Tom Hill, Chuck Marquis.

1. Opening Prayer: Led by Mike Prus.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January and March 2012 meetings were approved, without changes, “by acclamation”.

3. Discussion/Decision Items:

A. Church Lighting

Prior to the meeting, Jeff Jameson continued to modify the Request for Proposal document. At the meeting, he led the group through each section of the draft. Minor changes were suggested.

It was agreed that Jeff will complete the list of options for lighting design firms to possibly receive the final Request for Proposal, and provide this to Mike Prus. Mike will check with the diocese for any firms which they are not comfortable as possible applicants. Then Jeff will submit these to the firms on the list. It is hoped these steps will be completed in the next couple weeks.

Terry Wagner noted the Pastoral Council’s recent discussion on this topic. Ken Miles is soliciting volunteer participation in the fundraising aspects of the project.

4. Member Reports and Discussion

A. Chuck Marquis: Absent.

B. Terry Wagner, Finance Committee & Link to Pastoral Council: 1) Terry reported that the Pastoral Council passed the budget at its April 3 meeting, ahead of schedule. The budget provides for a small surplus.

C. Michael Prus, Business Manager: No report.

D. Tom Hill, Chairperson & Building Committee: Absent.

E. Jeff Jameson, At Large Delegate: No further report.

F. Klaus Rummer: The Men’s Club is seeking help for the April in Parish Project.

5. New Business:

The commission will meet again in May, to continue to progress on the church lighting project.

6. Closing Prayer: Led by Mike Prus.

- Submitted by Mike Prus

Christian Worship Commission Report May 2012

Altar Servers: No report at this Time

Art and Environment: Everything went well for Easter. Confirmation is done and we are now working on First Communion. This is a very busy time until after Pentecost.

Baptism Assistants: Due to Easter, we only had one baby Baptized in April. We will be soon asking the baptism folks if they intend to stay on the commission.

Choir: We had a very successful Holy Week and Easter weekend music wise. All the choirs did an outstanding job. Spent time in the liturgy meeting discussing on what worked, what might need some improvements with regard to Holy Week and Easter. First Holy Communion weekend went very well and preparing for next weekend. We are starting to prepare for Pentecost.

Eucharistic Ministers: Nothing to report

Greeters: We added a couple of new greeters, but still need additional help. We are planning on making some minor changes that should result in better greeting of our parishioners.

Lectors: No report

Linen Launderers:

Sacristans: Still working on training another sacristan for the 5:00 PM Mass. Currently we have only one person for this Mass.

Submitted by Gus Fischer

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Christian Education Commission
May Report
Submitted by Kim Cernek
4/28/12

General Notes

- Information regarding the position for the Director of Youth Ministry that is open at St. Margaret Mary Parish has been posted on the SMMP website, printed in the bulletin, and posted in various publications.
- A farewell celebration for Candy Rice and Patti Guare is being planned under the direction of Bob Hansen, Kevin Lynch, and Patty Vrankin for the 10:45 Mass on Sunday, June 3, with a reception in the Upper Room to follow.

Religious Education, PreK-Grade 5

- 200 families and 55 catechists have registered for the 2012-13 school year.
- 125 children will receive First Communion the weekend of April 28/29 or May 5/6.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of June 11-15 with 25 children registered and an incentive of a \$10 discount offered to families with a parent who volunteers.

Junior High, Journey.

- No report submitted.

Senior High, Quest

- No report submitted.

Adult Faith Formation

- The Morning Enrichment Committee will meet on May 2 to identify topics that relate to Vatican II in honor of the 50th anniversary on October 11.
- Volunteer members of staff have established the parish theme for next year as *You Are Light to the World!*

All Saints Catholic Academy

- In 2012-13 ASCA will have 20% non-Caucasian students, including 85 Hispanic children. Local parishes, the Diocese, and private foundations have made it possible for 7% of this year's student population and upwards of 10% of next year's who qualify for free and reduced lunch (an indicator that they subsist under the poverty level) to attend our school. Dr. Renehan recognizes that SMMP has a huge heart and regrets that we have needed to reduce charitable donations in general; however, she asks that the Parish will continue every effort to contribute to our shared mission of helping the poor.

- Pastoral Council is invited to attend Graduation at ASCA on Friday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. Eighth graders David Arrich and Michael Mayor, SMM parishioners, are among those who will be honored that evening.
- SMM parishioner and the first teacher hired at ASCA, Chris Corbett, will retire this spring, with the gratitude of the school for her servant leadership and service.

CEC will meet next on Thursday, May 10, 2012.

- Submitted by Kim Cernek

CSC May, 2012 Report

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: Our Bereavement Committee met last Wednesday; we said prayers for names in our Book of Remembrance and we had 2 funerals. Positive feedback was received on the receipt of the "gift basket" and funeral lunch offered. We have set our next meeting for May 16th.

BLOOD DRIVE: The next Blood Drive is Saturday, May 5th.

BOY SCOUTS: Troop 507 scouts assisted SMMP with their spring clean up by moving brush and spreading mulch on April 21 and April 28.

COMFORT CARE MINISTRY: There has been no new activity this last month.

DAYBREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: We discussed our new guest, who has been approved by the committee but not yet in the program. She is a single mother of three children under the age of 4 who has been gainfully employed at the same location for 4 years. We are looking forward to helping her learn to manage her money and raise her family in a stable environment.

FOOD PANTRY: The latest news regarding the Food Pantry group is that Loaves and Fishes has stopped accepting food donations on Sundays. Therefore, we will start taking the weekly food donations on Saturday mornings. This will mean the food cart will be full from the previous Sunday's collections. Our first Saturday delivery will be on May 5.

MEN'S CLUB: The Men's Club met April 17 in the Upper Room. Sixty men dined on corned beef , cabbage and potatoes, in belated St. Patrick's Day celebration. The meal was delicious. Our speaker, Dick Barret, spoke about the economy and financial investing. \$1,150 was approved for quarterly charitable contributions, which included \$750 for the teen summer mission trip. Planning for "April in Parish" annual service projects was presented. This year we have six parishioners who could use our assistance. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend.

PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP: Last month we organized the parish social mission week entitled, "Overcoming the Fear That Divides Us: Seeking the Common Good." The focus of the week was promoting the Catholic principle of the common good by inviting parishioners to sign postcards directed at Sen. Durbin urging him to protect funding for food stamps. In addition we signed up parishioners

to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, May 5th. The following week we hosted a talk about the global water crisis entitled, "Water, an Essential Element of Life: Addressing the lack of access to safe water."

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE: Mary Ann attended the pro-life coordinators meeting sponsored by the Diocesan Life Office. The speaker, Dr. Caruso, spoke on *in vitro* fertilization. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple, are gravely immoral. These techniques infringe the child's right to be born of a father and mother known to him and bound to each other by marriage. They betray the spouses' "right to become a father and a mother only through each other." #2376 The Committee will have a table at the upcoming Ministry Fair in May.

SEPTEMBER CLUB: On April 4, 2012, 39 members gathered for a "Welcome Springtime" luncheon in the parish center. They enjoyed a selection of pizzas subs, salad and desserts. After lunch, members were treated to a thought provoking presentation by Tom Cordaro, Saint Margaret Mary Parish Justice & Outreach Minister titled "Living Unafraid: What Death Can Teach Us About Living". As is the monthly custom, April birthdays and anniversaries' were recognized and all present were asked to remember those who were ill in their prayers.

SHARING PARISHES COMMITTEE: Franci Marchio, a representative for Usborne Books, donated three copies of THE STORY OF INVENTIONS in lieu of paying a Craft Fair booth fee. The libraries of St. Peter, St. Rita of Cascia, and St. Therese were each presented with a copy in the names of the students receiving tuition assistance from the Scholarship Fund as applications were dropped off for the 2012-2013 school year. Applications are being received and will be considered for tuition support in early May. The Garage Sale to raise funds for the Scholarship Program will be held on Friday, August 3, with a discount sale on Saturday morning, August 4. Donations will be accepted beginning on Saturday, July 28. Easter hams and grocery gift cards were distributed on April 3 to Sacred Heart and St. Nicholas Churches in Aurora and at SMMP. Tamale sales are continuing.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY: We had 5 men and women attend the meeting on April 18th at Southminster Church in Glen Ellyn. Steve Progegano made a presentation on the best approach to producing an eye-catching resume. Also attending were three of our volunteers who helped participants network with other job groups in the area.

- Submitted by Tom Cordaro