

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
December 4, 2012

Members Present: Barbara Burkhardt, Kim Cernek, Tom Cordaro, Dan Dulik, Gus Fischer, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Steve Schroeder, Marian Stricker, Terry Wagner, Larry Williams, Barb Zdon

Members Absent: Divia Ludwig

Guest Presenters: Anne Lysaught, Deacon Ken Miles

Council President Steve Schroeder opened tonight's meeting at 7:03 p.m. in Room 8 at SMMP. He noted the slight change in tonight's meeting agenda, starting with a presentation by the Ad Hoc Committee for Church Lighting Improvement and then followed by opening prayer and approval of meeting minutes. He then welcomed guest presenters Anne Lysaught and Deacon Ken Miles.

PRESENTATION BY AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR CHURCH LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT FUNDING:

Anne Lysaught briefly reviewed the Lighting Improvement Funding Team's background, goal, target audience, plan, and current fundraising status, with Deacon Ken Miles adding other information and helping answer questions. Having formed in October 2012, the Core Team (currently consisting of Deacon Ken Miles, Steve Griffin, Larry Riebold, Fr. Paul Hottinger, and Anne Lysaught) is directing efforts to raise a total of \$150,000 in the form of cash or pledge contributions from parishioners by early Spring 2013. Anne also reported that, as of 11/30/12, the campaign has already received \$32,000 in contributions from 47 contributors. Online contributions through ParishPay can now also be made, with online pledge contribution payments being accepted up through March 2015. While Funding Team members can send thank-you acknowledgments to donors, they will not know any dollar amount specifics for any of the donors. Donation tax receipts for specific dollar amounts, following IRS guidelines, will be issued by Mike Prus, Parish Business Manager.

Current efforts include the committee's using such tools as a "light bulb" appeal symbol, appeal letter, donation form, and funding envelopes. Other plans include the committee's development of the following: a "thermometer" chart for display in the church narthex and in the bulletin (showing growing amount of contributions received); a fundraising prayer; phoning campaign; donation thank-you process; commission outreach; and additional advertisement and parishioner outreach plans. Fr. Paul also suggested that the parish Lighting Improvement Funding Campaign be included in the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass. Meanwhile, additional fundraising events currently include: a bake sale (1/12-13); benefit day at Colonial Café, Naperville (1/15); and a chili cook-off (2/2). Additional ideas for fundraising events and activities are also sought, along with accompanying plans for hosting and coordinating these.

Council is requesting a visual display of lighting improvement plans, so that parishioners can readily view this. Although there would be an additional charge of \$1,500-3,000 for a detailed display by RuckPate Architecture per their proposal, Council expressed interest in creating a satisfactory visual display instead from the bid package. Council noted the importance of conveying to the parish that the church has had two minor fires due to existing cove lighting. The insurance company has stressed the need to consider replacing existing cove lighting.

Steve then thanked Anne and Deacon Ken for their presentation, prior to their departure.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2012 MEETING MINUTES:

Council approved the minutes from November 6, 2012, with Gus Fischer moving, Dan Dulik seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these. The minutes, along with the Commission and Ad Hoc Committee reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

OPENING PRAYER: Tom Cordaro then led an opening prayer, along with Scripture readings. He noted that the prayer and petitions were especially pertinent to Council and Staff's current work on reading the signs of our times.

DISCERNING GOD'S CALL: UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF OUR

PARISHIONERS: Council participated in an hour-long discussion, led by Tom Cordaro, about their important insights and reactions to recently assigned articles and reports pertaining to our Catholic faith tradition, as challenged by the modern world. These articles and reports had been electronically sent in advance, requiring advance reading in preparation for tonight's meeting. Following this, Council also noted particular Biblical stories and Scriptural themes relating to these.

Likewise, Parish Staff will meet next week to share their insights and reactions to these articles and reports and relate Biblical and Scriptural themes to them. On 1/12/13, Staff and Council will then meet in a workshop format in order to plan the parish missional directives.

Following this, Council then took a break from 8:12-8:30 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Barbara Burkhardt.

WORLD PEACE DAY INTERFAITH SERVICE (1/1/13 – 2 p.m., Wentz Hall-North Central College, Naperville): Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, requested that SMMP again be a co-sponsor for the World Peace Day Interfaith Service. A \$25.00 donation (from Tom's budget) is needed for this sponsorship.

Council expressed approval for St. Margaret Mary Parish to be a co-sponsor for the World Peace Day Interfaith Services on 1/1/13. Tom noted that this will now be SMMP's eighth year as its co-sponsor. All are invited to attend this service, and Tom will electronically send a sample flyer to Council in advance about this.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: Terry Wagner, Administration Commission Representative, noted that the Commission did not meet this past month, with no report submitted.

[On 11/12, RuckPate Architecture presented their design and "mock-up's" for the proposed new church lighting plan to the Administration Commission -- Council and CWC Members were also invited to attend].

Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Report, December 2012* was electronically submitted in advance by Gus Fischer, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Gus Fischer, CWC Representative, also noted that, in conjunction with the Art and Environment Committee, all are invited to help with church Christmas decorating, beginning on 12/16/12 at 1:15 p.m. and including lunch. It will be completed on 12/23/12, also following the 12:15 p.m. Mass. In addition, Eucharistic minister, lector, greeter, and altar server sign-up sheets are now posted for Christmas Eve/Day and New Year's Eve/Day Masses.

Christian Education (CEC): [*CEC November 2012 Report for PC for December Meeting* was electronically submitted in advance by Kim Cernek, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Kim Cernek, CEC Representative, provided updated information about the summer teen mission trip, which will be offered by a group called "Young Neighbors." The teens will travel to the Winnebago Native American Reservation in Omaha, Nebraska, during the Week of July 21-27. She also noted that the teens will not be participating in the S.H.I.N.E. urban mission trip this summer. A summer mission trip for junior high students to Springfield, IL, will be offered through "Just 5 Days." More information will be available about these youth mission trips shortly.

In addition, CEC has approved SMMP to be one of the sponsoring parishes for a presentation by Matthew Kelly, author of *Rediscover Catholicism*, on 2/2/13 at St. John of the Cross Parish, Western Springs. SMMP Parishioner Mary Runger has requested SMMP's promotion of this event, including articles appearing in the parish bulletin, announcements at Sunday Mass, and advance ticket sales. These are tentatively scheduled for early January.

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

In CSC Representative Divia Ludwig's absence, Tom Cordaro especially noted that the Sunday Nursery is making great strides, including having increased publicity in the parish bulletin about its services.

Tom also reported that the Christmas/Holiday Lights Recycling Program [through the Earth Care Committee] is receiving an "enormous response." A collection box for these lights is located near the elevator, inside the business office entrance.

For the "Parishioners Helping Parishioners –Sharing Christmas Joy in Difficult Times" program, Tom requested that the names of parishioners who are in need, along with their addresses and number of household members, be submitted to him as soon as possible. Donated gift certificates will be subsequently mailed to these identified parishioners/parishioner families, with an explanatory note of good cheer and hope from the parish. [Monetary contributions or \$40 gift certificates from Target, Dominick's, Jewel, K-Mart, Sears, Kohl's, and Penney's are currently being collected in the parish office for this program].

PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER (1/19/13): Larry Williams provided a hard-copy handout, tentatively assigning Council Members to various roles and responsibilities for the upcoming Appreciation Dinner, including:

Food and Beverage Coordinators – Larry Williams, Divia Ludwig
Communications – Tom Cordaro
Entertainment – Dan Dulik, Kim Cernek
Decorations and Logistics -- Barbara Burkhardt, Kim Cernek, Sue Schroeder,
Marlyn Steury
Set-Up and Clean-Up Coordinators – Marian Stricker, Barb Zdon

Dan Dulik confirmed that entertainment will be provided by Brian Pelz (Contemporary Choir Director) and "Off the Rails." Council agreed to ask Appreciation Dinner registrants to optionally provide an appetizer or dessert to share, with the registration form also including a "check-off box" for indicating this. Additional teen help will be needed for the coat check, kitchen, and serving/clean-up. As there were very few families signing up to use nursery/babysitting services at last year's dinner, babysitting will not be offered at the 2013 dinner event.

Larry will send out updated assignment lists shortly.

FINAL "WHIP" AROUND: Comments included:

- "Great – thanks, Tom, for the past three [discernment] sessions."
- "I actually did like the readings and tonight's session – thanks, Tom."

- “Good session – I had previously doubted this but understand these trends now.”
- “Good three sessions.”
- “Thanks for having us read all these articles.”
- “Am anxious to see how all of these will meld.”
- “Was nervous about the new church lighting – am now pleased with the plans.”
- “Was worried about the new lighting – it’s a good plan.”
- “The Holy Spirit is at work in our parish.”
- “Great work – all will come together.”

CLOSING: Tom Cordaro offered a closing prayer.

Barbara Burkhardt was thanked for providing tonight’s refreshments. The meeting then concluded at 9:00 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, in Room 8 (St. Margaret Mary Parish), starting at 7:00 p.m.

*January Opening/Closing Prayer: Tom Cordaro
January Refreshments: Tom Cordaro*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

Christian Worship Commission Report, December 2012

Altar Servers: Servers are asked to sign up for Christmas and New Year Masses.

Art and Environment: We will begin Christmas decorating on Sunday December 16th at 1:15 PM. Lunch will be served. We will finish decorating the next Sunday Dec.23rd
At 1:15 PM. We need your help, so hope to see you then.

Baptism Assistants: No report

Music Ministry: We had a very successful Taize last Friday. The contemporary choir is singing for the upcoming Thursday Memorial Mass. Everything is set for the Reconciliation

Service on Dec. 11th. The children's choir is practicing for Christmas. Christmas

Un-Plugged is set for Dec.21st.

Eucharistic Ministers: Signup sheets for Christmas and New Year Masses were posted last Sunday.

Lectors: No report

Sacristan Ministry: Some minor details have to be worked out to better meet our needs. When Special events will change the head count, the Sacristans must be notified to make necessary accommodations.

Linen Launderers: No report at this time.

Greeters: Signup sheets for Christmas and New Year Masses are in the Library.

We are still looking for additional Greeters for all Masses.

-- Submitted by Gus Fischer

CSC Report: November, 2012

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: We had our monthly meeting last night because of next week with Thanksgiving Holiday and we all made our final plans for the Remembrance Mass which will be held on Thursday, December 6th at 7:00PM. Please encourage the others in your formation if they have had a loss in the past year to attend this special Mass. Our Ministers will be making over 100 calls in outreaching to our families who have had a loss or was listed in the Prayers of the Faithful to please come to attend this year. I am happy to say we have 2 new Bereavement Ministers and welcome Noirin Leahy-Mele and Ray Mayer!. We will have formal meeting in December and our next Bereavement meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2013.

MENS CLUB: Men's Club held its November monthly meeting on Tuesday 11/20. Annual budget review was conducted and normal business agenda was discussed. From a former president of the club, a personal appeal was made to members for support of the fund raising in support of improved lighting for the church.

NURSERY: Average usage for November: 9am mass: 5-6 children, serving on average, 5 families (same number of families as last month but # of children down from 6-8). 10:45am mass: 1-3 children, serving on average, 2 families (Last month 3-5 children, an average of 3 families) Budget questions: Carrie is in the process of working with Mike Prus hoping to better understand options for hiring more babysitters for Cia (to keep at 2 people a week. Sign-in sheet and laminated signs in the church building have been completed.

PASTORAL CARE: We continue giving communion to Edward Hospital patients on Mondays. Continue giving communion to homebound SMM parishioners upon their requests and giving communion to St. Patrick's Residence twice a week We provide communion services to the Sunrise retirement facilities. We are seeking to increase Pastoral Care Ministers to replace those on medical leave and to certify new Ministers after a two week training course at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien.

PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP: Our November parish social mission week went well. We collected over \$2,200.00 for Heifer International and we hosted a speaker from Catholic Relief Services. Our Earth Care Committee has started a Christmas light recycling project. Money earned from this effort will be used to off-set the added expense of moving the parish away from Styrofoam products to biodegradable paper products.

SEPTEMBER CLUB: On November 7, 41 members and guests gathered at Quincy's Restaurant in Naperville for a "Turkey Time" luncheon in anticipation of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. All present joined with Fr. Tom in a prayer of thanksgiving. Participants were treated to a turkey dinner or other menu item. As is the monthly custom, November birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and members were asked to remember those members who are ill in their prayers.

SHARING PARISH PROGRAM: Thanksgiving turkeys and food gift cards were distributed through Sacred Heart and St. Nicholas Churches in Aurora and SMMP. Tamales can be ordered for pick-up on December 23.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: This was a "light month. "Besides the usual gas and food vouchers, only had one case. Currently single mom lost job and we helped with Rent.

- Submitted by Tom Cordaro

CEC November 2012 Report for PC for December Meeting

PreK–Grade 5 Report: Sue Davey

- Ten people attended the October 24 Diocesan workshop for Catechists: Proposing and Re-proposing Christ and Being Sent.
- Approximately 120 children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on November 27 and 28.
- The Kindergarten through fifth grade classes are participating in weekly Advent prayer services that includes a presentation of ornaments for the Jesse Trees that stand in SMMP's foyer.
- The almsgiving project for the season involves collecting donations for Heifer International.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

- Over 600 boxes for food were collected by SMMP teens and their parents, packed by Junior High students and their families, and donated to Loaves and Fishes and the Marie Wilkinson Food pantry.
- A new Google account and website (www.youthwithheart.com) has been established. In the coming weeks this online tool will be activated for use by those involved with Youth Ministry.
- The almsgiving project for the season involves collecting donations for Heifer International.
- Feedback from a recent catechist meeting included the following suggestions: additional large group and social events, a monthly youth-led Mass, and a Youth Ministry Advisory Board.

Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Madelyn Gould

- "Mary: A Light Among Us
- Nearly 75 people attended the Threads' Catholic Trivia night in October. The next event is titled "Cinema Night". On December 14, three movies will be screened for various age groups: *The Nativity*, *Star of Bethlehem*, and *"Veggie Tale Christmas"*.
- Sister Madelyn and David Schimmel are working on the Advent Reconciliation Service that will be presented at SMMP on Tuesday, December 11.
- Krystal Covis will be received into the Church at Easter.
- *Christ Is Our Hope* magazine will feature SMMP's retreat program in a future issue.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan

- ASCA's Advent theme, *In a Baby Our Faith Is Born*, connects to our church's call for *A Year of Faith*.
- The Advent service project will benefit Hessed House.
- ASCA families will receive credit for their service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There are approximately 40 possible projects.
- ASCA looks forward to celebrating Catholic Schools week with the education ministries at SMMP once again at the end of January 2013.

St. Margaret Mary Parish

Submitted by Kim Cernek