

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 9, 2013

Members Participating: Barbara Burkhardt, Kim Cernek, Tom Cordaro, Gus Fischer, Neil Gorman, Divia Ludwig, Mike Newell, Larry Williams, Barb Zdon

Members Absent: Fr. Paul Hottinger, Marian Stricker

Council President Barbara Burkhardt opened tonight's meeting at 7:03 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP, also noting that Fr. Paul's absence tonight was due to his attending a Convocation. Neil Gorman shared an opening reflection and led a group prayer.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING MINUTES:

Council approved the meeting minutes from September 10, 2013, with Gus Fischer moving, Barb Zdon seconding, and the Council approving these. The minutes, along with the Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

GENERAL:

Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (1/18/14): Council reviewed some plans which are already under way, including Barb Zdon's having contacted the caterer (the same one with which she had worked for SMMP's Seder Dinner, held on 3/20/13). Barb still needs to contact Marian Stricker about co-chairing the Appreciation Dinner with her, while Mike Prus; Parish Business Manager, will need to confirm the amount already budgeted for this event; and Larry Williams will provide information files to Barb Zdon about previous Appreciation dinners. Although Brian Pelz, Contemporary Choir Director, has already been contacted about the dinner's date, he is still awaiting word from some of the key musicians from *Off the Rails* about their availability to perform at the 2014 dinner.

Council also expressed interest in slightly increasing the amount already budgeted for this event, especially to include dry cleaning of the parish's table linens and for purchase of appetizers. Estimated attendance is 200-225 people, including the musicians and event helpers.

"At Large" Member Nominating Committee: Neil Gorman and Mike Newell, who will be heading up the Nominating Committee, are already looking into re-contacting some of the parishioners who were involved in the previous discernment process held in Spring 2013. Council reviewed which two At Large Members (Barbara Burkhardt and Larry Williams) would be ending their three-year terms at the end of 2013-14; and while

good balance, including gender, age, and diversity, within the Council might be ideal, it was noted that the Spirit will lead the candidates' final discernment for these positions.

PARISH CONVOCATION (10/01/13): Tom Cordaro led Council in follow-up discussion about the recent Parish Convocation, which was held in the Parish Center on 10/01/13. The Convocation had approximately 200 attendees, most of these being parish "direction setters." Council then reviewed the following two documents, sent to them prior to tonight's meeting:

- *Ordering the Life of the Parish in Response to Our Parish Theme and Missional Directives* [summarizing responses generated per break-out session group]
- *Questions and Concerns Regarding the Parish Theme and Missional Directions* ([listing questions generated per break-out session group])

Following Council's review of the above, these same documents will be electronically sent within the next few days to Convocation attendees whose e-mail addresses are available. The responses and questions in these documents were generated by the following break-out session groups at the Convocation: Adult; Catechist; Worship; Outreach; Greeters; Choir; and Service.

Its prayerful opening seemed to set the Convocation's overall tone for respect, engagement, and open-mindedness, with the parish "direction setters" input and prayers being highly valued. Council received many positive spoken and written responses about the Convocation. Some of the attendees appeared to already grasp some deep concepts, although some still struggled, about the new parish theme and missional directives as initially presented that night. Council was reminded that some of the Parish Leadership Team had originally struggled with these same concepts during the past couple of years during their development. Overall, the Convocation set a high sense of expectations for "something good to happen" with the new missional directives. In order to do this, Council expressed interest in having weekly or monthly electronic communication updates provided about how the missional directives are being implemented on an ongoing basis within each of the Commissions.

Phil Samuels will be writing up a summary about the Convocation for the parish bulletin very shortly, with Tom Cordaro working on its page layout. Kim Cernek (representing CEC-Education), Gus Fisher (representing CWC-Worship), and Tom (representing CSC-Service) were thanked for their work in planning the Convocation. Likewise, each Council Member was thanked for actively assisting at the Convocation.

EVANGELIZATION DISCUSSION: Tom Cordaro then led Council in its discussion about the first half of Pope Paul VI's 1975 apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*

(*On Evangelization in the New World*), which was Council's assigned reading during the previous month in preparation for tonight's meeting. Although this document was written in 1975, its current relevance and timeliness are especially noted. The following questions were provided in advance by Tom to assist with tonight's discussion:

- What did you find most exciting/interesting in this month's reading? What did you find most confusing?
- What do you find in the first half of this Apostolic Exhortation that pertains to elements of our parish theme and missional directives?
- How is the tone and focus of this document on evangelization different than the recent evangelization campaign (*Catholics Come Home*) of the U.S. Catholic Bishops? (c.f. <http://www.catholicscomehome.org>)

Council then spent approximately 30 minutes in guided discussion about this document. During this time, Council Members cited numerous key sections which were personally meaningful and relevant to them. Among these are the following: that evangelization remain Christ-centered and tuned-in to culture; that the Gospel message should be unceasingly integrated with daily life, both personal and social; and that even the finest witness proves ineffective if it is not explicitly explained and justified. While it was felt that the U.S. Bishops' *Catholics Come Home* Program seems apologetic, evangelization is Christ-centered. It was also noted how much the witness talks at CRHP [Christ Renews His Parish] retreats are strong examples of evangelization.

Tom stated that the Parish Staff had already completed their study and discussion on the same assigned first half of this document at an earlier date and that he would share a summary with Staff about Council's discussion tonight. It was also recommended that information about *Evangelization in the New World* be provided to the parish, so that interested individuals could also access and read this. Likewise, discernment candidates might greatly benefit from reading this document, too.

Council will be reading the remaining half of *Evangelization in the New World* in preparation for next month's meeting. Tom will provide discussion questions in advance about the assigned reading.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:12-8:30 p.m., enjoying refreshment provided by Neil Gorman.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [No report was provided in advance, and no representative was in attendance in Fr. Paul's absence].

Council expressed concerns about the missing report and lack of representation from this Commission at tonight's meeting. Tom Cordaro will talk with Mike Prus about Council's receiving a report belatedly.

Although not an Administration Member, Gus Fischer had attended the Commission's recent meeting and stated that there was much discussion at this about upcoming replacement of the church's HVAC system, with this not involving a fundraising campaign.

Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Report October, 2013 was electronically submitted in advance by Gus Fischer, a copy of which is shown hereto*].

Gus Fischer, CWC Representative, reported that the lectors will no longer be reading announcements at Sunday Masses but that one person (rotationally doing this on assigned Sundays from a special team, including Kim Cernek and Deacon Ken) will incorporate making announcements as they relate to the parish theme at the beginning of each of the Sunday Masses. This new liturgical plan is modeled upon a format currently used at Old St. Patrick's Church-Chicago.

There was some discussion about SMMP offering a special teen Mass liturgy, to be written and led by teens (following available guidelines). This would also need to be done in conjunction with a Mass celebrant who would be very comfortable with working with teens and this format. It was especially noted that this teen-planned and implemented liturgy is different from the "Teen Mass" which had previously been offered at SMMP on a once-monthly basis. Tom Cordaro noted that, through his past experiences, the teens learned a great deal more about the parts of the Mass and their importance when actually planning the full liturgy. It was suggested that a teen-planned special Mass liturgy might be possibly offered twice yearly at SMMP and that Fr. Jonathan Foster, OFM, might be especially interested in this.

Council briefly discussed a few concerns which were raised at Convocation break-out session groups, including Mass etiquette, Eucharistic ministers' clothing, and greater diversity in greeters and gift bearer groups. In addition, the fire marshall has requested that there be no standees in the back of the church during Masses.

Education (CWC): [*CEC Report for October 2013 PC Meeting was electronically submitted in advance by Kim Cernek, a copy of which is shown hereto*].

Kim noted that some of the other participating Lisle-Naperville churches will not be collectively holding their Harvest Sunday food collections on the same date this year, e.g. SSPP's having already completed theirs. SMMP's date for this year's Harvest Sunday will be on November 3rd (food pickup).

There were many wonderful responses received about the dinner and game night recently hosted by Peer Ministry for the seniors' September Club.

SERVICE (CSC): [CSC Report: October, 2013 was electronically submitted in advance by Tom Cordaro, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There were no questions directed to Divia Ludwig, CSC Representative, at tonight's meeting.

According to Kim Cernek, Barb Fair (SMMP's PADS Coordinator) asked her to help coordinate scheduling teen groups to work at PADS – teens will also receive service hours for this. Teens are now scheduled to help every month. Kim Cernek noted that Barb Fair specially meets with the respective teen group helpers for approximately an hour at PADS on their assigned work night, better explaining the ministry and some of the reasons for homelessness. As a result of teen groups' involvement, some of their parents are also becoming involved with PADS and service projects for PADS, e.g. sock collections. Barbara Burkhardt reported that evangelization is definitely evidenced at PADS, along with some wonderful fellowship experienced among its many volunteers. PADS also welcomes the new once-monthly efforts of the support team from the Islamic Center of Lombard.

Although there are no active plans to hold a Parish Ministry Fair in 2013-14, Commissions and Committees are encouraged to set up tables at Hospitality Sundays, not just for recruitment but for greater visibility and communication about active ministry. In addition, announcements can be made before Mass about special sign-up for a particular event or ministry, with representatives stationed by a sign-up table near the church rear entrance, available for additional information. There is a continued need for increased communication about when and where service work opportunities are needed, along with whether or not these are short- or long-term commitments. Recruitment for new catechist sign-up will continue in late Spring 2014, especially for helping staff the 2014-15 Religious Education Program.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CHURCH LIGHTING: [No report received, and no representative was in attendance at tonight's meeting].

Installation work for new lighting has now begun in the church, with the estimated project taking nine weeks. During this time, the Upper Room will be utilized for weekday Masses, although the church will be used for weekend Masses.

Council expressed its concern, along with its still seeking more information, about the small fire on 10/05/13 in the lighting above the altar. There was no damage reported, and the fire department was not called. This occurred in a Saturday morning after Mass, when a catechist, instructing her students in the church, had turned on these lights for a brief time and noticed small flames. Subsequently, these lights above the altar had remained off during the Sunday Masses. The lighting above the altar was installed a couple of years ago by a different electrical company than that which is currently doing the new lighting project in the church.

AD HOC COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE: Larry Williams reported that a small group met in September, with a group leader still being very much needed for this. He has received a couple of suggested leadership names, with Larry's recommending the desirability for the leader to already have much familiarity with the parish ministries, personnel, personalities, and "politics." There is a great need to connect all parish communications and actively use all forms of available media and tools for these.

Council expressed some frustration in the continued delay to update the parish website, while still waiting for the Communication Committee to form and take charge of this. Kim Cernek reminded Council about SMMP's very well-done Jr. High and Youth Ministry's interactive website (<http://www.youthwithheart.com>), created and maintained by Dan Lawler, Director of Youth Ministry. Kim offered to use some free website building tools, e.g. through Weebly, to already start adding onto the parish website. One idea includes adding audio recording to the PowerPoint presentation made by Tom Cordaro at the recent parish Convocation and then uploading this onto the parish website shortly. Kim expressed willingness to initially assist with this, then encouraging others to collect information for once-monthly updates accordingly to the parish website.

CLOSING: Neil Gorman provided a closing prayer. He was also thanked for providing tonight's refreshments.

The meeting concluded at 9:10 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, in Room 8 (SMMP), starting at 7:00 p.m.

*November Opening/Closing Prayer: Fr. Paul
November Meeting Refreshments: Larry Williams*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury, Recording Secretary

Christian Worship Commission Report October, 2013

The CWC held a meeting on September ,18th. Members present were Mary Lou Krauss, John Schlaman, Terry Wagner, Mark Marsaglia, and Gus Fischer.

This meeting was held so we could discuss the upcoming Convocation. John did an excellent job of describing how he feels our Music can be an important part of our Parish Mission and Theme Directive.

We also decided that in future meetings we will discuss ways that we can improve our worship experience.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 13th.

The Lector ministry submitted the following highlights for the month:

The lectors will no longer read the announcements

Lector schedule is now on-line

Lectors workshop was held on September 29th. Over 40 participated

They are trying to recruit new lectors with an emphasis on younger people – late teens

The greeters implemented some of the ideas that were generated during the Convocation. A meeting will be scheduled to inform all greeters of the changes. We will be conducting our Parish count on the next 2 weekends.

A Eucharistic training session will probably be held early in January.

Submitted by Gus Fischer

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CEC Report for October 2013 PC Meeting

PreK-Grade 5 Report: Sue Davey

- Reconciliation registration information was mailed to 2nd and 3rd Grade parents (including ASCA). The first parent-only meeting is Tuesday, October 22. A planning meeting for the November 2nd retreat will be on Wednesday, October 23.
- We are hosting a series of three mini-courses offered by the Diocese of Joliet regarding the Creed. *I Believe in God the Father* is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. Session 2 (*I Believe in Jesus Christ*) will be on October 9, and Session 3 (*I Believe in the Holy Spirit*) will be on October 30.
- Our Safe Environment Program will be held in classes October 26th to October 30th.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

- This Saturday, Peer Ministry is hosting an evening with the September Club. It's an opportunity for our teens to interact with some of the seniors of our parish. We will be providing dinner and games for them to play together.
- They are also working on hosting some other events, including a dodgeball tournament for the Freshman and Sophomore groups, a Junior High Retreat Day, and some other local service opportunities. We will also begin preparations for the Freshman and Peer Ministry Retreats, which will be in November.
- We are starting to prepare for Harvest Sunday, which will take place on October 27 (flier distribution) and November 3 (food pickup). This year has been affected by the 1st Annual Naperville Marathon and events at other parishes, and so not all participating churches will be doing it on the same weekend.

Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Madelyn Gould

- TABLE FOR TWO: Rev. Kenneth Potts is giving the presentation at Table for Two on Oct. 20. Topic: Our Need for Intimacy.
- THREADS: WEAVING THE FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS: A planning session for the Dec. 11 Threads Event is taking place Oct. 14. Catechists have volunteered to take responsibility for the various Stations of "Our Journey to Bethlehem."
- R.C.I.A.: We have five Inquirers who meet for instruction on Wednesday evenings. On Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. Mass, the Inquirers are dismissed to share their insights on the Scripture Readings.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan

- We just completed our standardized testing week for Grades 3-8. The results should be available in mid-November.

- We are also immersed in two evaluation projects: Standards of Excellence and Curriculum Mapping. The Diocese is doing a full, rich-data evaluation with ITBS scores, AIMS Web benchmarks, Dibbles, and ACRE results.
- We are participating in an hour of prayer, requested by the Holy Father on October 4.

- Submitted by Kim Cernek

CSC Report: October, 2013

BLOOD DRIVE: Our next blood drive will be on Saturday, October 19th.

BREAVEMENT MINISTRY: We had our Bereavement meeting Sept. 18th. We discussed that when the ministry receives the notification of a funeral that the case assignment will not go to someone who knows the family; it is better that a stranger call from the Bereavement Ministry than someone who already knows them. We also discussed that if someone wishes to email me that contact was made, it would be OK if they were unable to mail me the contact form or attend our meetings. We had 7 new case assignments. Next meeting will be Wed. Oct. 16th;

COMFORT CARE: There have been no funeral luncheons or emergency meals in September.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS: We held our first meeting on Sept. 10th. We now have four requests that are out for review. We have 10 requests in which financials are currently being reviewed and will hopefully be ready for distribution at our next meeting. So we have 14 total requests already in, and last year we distributed money to about 18 non-profits. Our next scheduled meeting is Oct. 8, 2013.

MEN'S CLUB: In addition to the normal agenda (committee reports, activities etc.) a brief recap of the picnic was done. This consisted of the picnic chairman providing observations and suggestions. Immediately following the meeting, we counted the tickets from the picnic in order to prepare a final report.

NURSERY: Here are the nursery numbers for September and closures for the rest of 2013. Sep 1, 2013:

Labor Day - nursery closed. Sep 8, 2013 (volunteer sitters) 9am: 3 kids, 2 families 10:45am: 9 kids, 8 families. Sep 15, 2013: 9am: 4 kids, 2 families 10:45am: 3 kids, 3 families. Sep 22, 2013: 9am: 4 kids, 3 families 10:45am: 6 kids, 5 families. Sep 29, 2013: 9am: 7 kids, 5 families 10:45am: 3 kids, 3 families. Planned nursery closings through the end of 2013: 10/13/2013 - Columbus Day wkend, 12/1/2013 - Thanksgiving wkend, 12/22/2013 - Christmas wkend, 12/29/2013 - New Years wkend

PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP: Our first parish social mission week was very successful. We were able to collect over 285 signed postcards directed to Rep. Roskam and Rep. Foster

urging them to protect funding for anti-poverty programs in the U.S. Our next parish social mission week will be Oct. 26-27 and the theme will be “The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor.”

PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE: Respect Life poster will be on display in the narthex during October. One member will be attending the Illinois Citizens for Life banquet.

SHARING PARISH: Checks totaling \$5,500 have been sent to Aurora Catholic Grammar Schools for tuition assistance for the first semester for nine children in seven families. Members of SMMP and Sacred Heart Parishes met at Sacred Heart on September 19 to consider how we might collaborate. They are establishing a Food Pantry and are interesting in learning about our Teen Peer Ministry and our Bereavement Ministry. They are receiving on-going information about the St. Joseph the Worker Employment Ministry and are invited to the Military Ministry Veteran's Day Prayer Service on Monday, November 11 at 7 pm. During the second week in October, their Pastoral Council and Finance Committee will meet and discuss how Sacred Heart wishes for their Parish to move forward and what relationship they would like to have with us. The next tamale delivery date is Sunday, November 3.

The following PADS report is their annual report on the program. If anything happens during the year that the Leadership Community needs to be aware of a report will be submitted

PADS MINISTRY:

During the summer, the SMMP site was closed, but the volunteer team from SMMP was busy with PADS, serving at Trinity Lutheran on the 3rd Wednesdays, June – August. Since there are fewer sites, the number of PADS guests is larger (70 – 80). So, thanks to all the volunteers for extra food during the summer.

Starting in September, we are back at SMMP. SMMP volunteers will again be providing support on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We will again be featuring our “pot roast Thursday”, which is a favorite of the guests. During the transition month of Sept, we have been hosting 70 – 75 guests; but hope to be back to a more typical number of 50 – 60 guests when a third site opens in October.

SMMP will again be a “family first” site, where families are guaranteed a spot, and are admitted early. We will also be a site for PADS clients that are “engaged” with PADS in self-improvement activities or with special needs. This includes guests with medical needs, employed, enrolled in classes, in recovery programs, etc. The purpose of the program by PADS is to provide special incentives for those individuals who are actively involved in trying to change their life situation, by providing them priority admission at the southern sites, such as SMMP. This also helps to provide an environment that is more suitable for the children at these sites.

We are glad to welcome a new support team from the Islamic Center of Lombard – they are serving dinner on the 4th week of each month. So, our support teams will be:

Week 1 – St. Elizabeth Seton

Week 2 – Naperville Christian – dinner; PADS – overnight; SMMP special teams – breakfast/cleanup

Week 3 – SMMP

Week 4 – Islamic Center – dinner, overnight; St. John’s Episcopal, Darien – breakfast/cleanup

We are thankful that Edward Hospital will again be providing the laundry service for the sheets.

We are also glad to be continuing the Hour of Hope reflection and sharing with the guests. Thanks to Drew Piraino and Gail Crema who are coordinating this with the support teams. We are looking forward to developing opportunities for interfaith sharing with the Islamic Center, who are very interested to participate in this sharing with the guests. This is a chance to reflect on some very common life-enriching themes, and a chance for the guests to share their stories, and be heard in a caring and supportive environment. Topics have included trust, forgiveness, love, hope, with reflections that may be bible-based, or from other relevant sources. The program was initiated last year by Joe Ferrari, based on an Ignatian spirituality program developed at Loyola University, a chance to nourish their souls and minds, as well as their bodies. Watch for info to follow in the bulletin about the Hour of Hope.

- Submitted by Tom Cordaro
