

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
November 5, 2013

Members Participating: Barbara Burkhardt, Gus Fischer, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Mike Newell, Marian Stricker, Larry Williams, Barb Zdon

Members Absent: Kim Cernek, Tom Cordaro, Divia Ludwig, Neil Gorman

Guests Present: Deacon Joe Ferrari, Chris O'Shaunessy, Phil Samuels

Council President Barbara Burkhardt opened tonight's meeting at 7:02 p.m. in Room 8 at SMMP. She then welcomed Deacon Joe Ferrari, Chris O'Shaunessy, and Phil Samuels as tonight's guest presenters. Fr. Paul Hottinger then shared a Scripture reading, led Scriptural reflection based on this, and offered an opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2013 MEETING MINUTES:

Council approved the meeting minutes from October 9, 2013, with Barbara Burkhardt 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.

INFORMATIONAL PROPOSAL PRESENTATION – Volunteer Medical Ministry of First Medical Responders at Sunday Masses:

Deacon Joe Ferrari presented information to Council to create a "Volunteer Medical Ministry" of first medical responders who participate at SMMP's weekend Masses. He learned about such a program already being implemented at another parish. Parishioner medical first responders, e.g. physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, and EMT's, could join this ministry and then be scheduled as attendees at specific weekend Masses. Whether or not the first responder would choose to sit in a designated pew seat with a parish-stocked emergency medical kit, the Greeters would need to know beforehand about the first responders presence and location at a specific weekend Mass. Likening this to the parish's having "medical insurance" which hopefully might never need to be used, Deacon Joe felt that it would help provide better peace of mind about more effectively handling a medical emergency should one ever occur at a weekend Mass. The Medical Volunteers, however, would not serve as "free medical care or consultation" providers.

Deacon Joe noted that new parishioner Chris O'Shaunessy, R.N., had expressed an interest in helping co-chair a steering committee for the Medical Ministry. She is creating a bulletin article to recruit parishioner medical personnel for signing up for this ministry on a trial basis. As this might be initially implemented at only a couple of the weekend Masses, its expansion to additional weekend Masses could later occur as based on evaluation after a six- or nine-month period. Medical staff that provides assistance would be covered by the State of Illinois' "Good Samaritan" Law.

As some of SMMP's Greeters received CPR training several years ago, Deacon Joe also suggested that the current Greeters attend new CPR (re)certification training shortly. Although the Greeters had previously paid for their own certification training, Deacon Joe expressed hopes that the parish could pay for part or all of the current \$40 per person CPR (re)certification cost. Council was supportive of both initiatives.

INFORMATIONAL PROPOSAL PRESENTATION – “I DID” Marriage Enrichment Program (“Say I DO Again, Before the 7-Year Itch”): Deacon Joe and Phil Samuels shared information about developing an “I DID” Marriage Enrichment Program offered to couples married within the past six years. As either an annual or twice-yearly event offering, plans included the following:

- As a Sunday Brunch Program, a brunch would be held in the Upper Room, following either the 10:45 a.m. or 12:15 p.m. Mass. This event would also provide child care, if needed. Food would be brought into the Upper Room and served.
- As an Evening Dinner Program, this event would also provide child care, if needed. Food would not be provided at SMMP, but the Upper Room would be used for a brief 30-40 minute presentation and pre-dinner refreshments. Each couple would then dine at one of three local pre-designated restaurants, using discount vouchers to be used for that evening. In order to especially increase a sense of community, couples would then sit together in groups at the respective restaurants. Participants would then return to the Upper Room for coffee/dessert and child pick-up.

Although somewhat similar to the parish's previous “10 Great Dates” and “Table for Two” marriage enrichment programs, this “I DID” program would link to the parish missional directives, providing OPEN ARMS to those 20- and 30-something couples whom the parish does not often attract. It would also provide these couples with a “date time through the church,” along with the opportunity to build community with similar other younger married couples. The parish would then have a chance to OPEN HEARTS to prayer and reflection on their married life.

The steering committee for this “I DID” Program currently include Phil and Barb Samuels, assisted by Deacon Joe and Sharon Ferrari, with hopes to also include two newly married couples. Council expressed support for this new Marriage Enrichment Program.

Following these presentations, the guest attendees were then dismissed.

GENERAL:

Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (1/18/14): Barb Zdon and Marian Stricker reviewed plans which are under way for the 2014 Appreciation Dinner. Barb confirmed that the band *Off the Rails* is now secured; that the co-chairs are currently reviewing the catered menu and price being offered by Upper Crust Catering in Yorkville (the caterer

whom Barb used for the parish's 2013 Seder Dinner); and that Mike Prus had confirmed the amount already budgeted (\$2,500) for the 2014 Appreciation Dinner. It was also noted that Council would need to approve any budgetary changes, if needed, as relating to this dinner. The Men's Club's Budget Committee will be meeting next Tuesday, with word anticipated about their providing additional assistance with beverages. In addition, the general theme for the dinner is still being considered.

Council expressed interest in again requesting that dinner attendees optionally sign up to bring desserts or appetizers, possibly through a similar e-registration format which was previously used for the Parish Convocation. Dan Lawler, Director of Youth Ministry, will be contacted about recruiting teen help to assist with serving and cleaning up at the dinner, along with helping with the coat check. Divia Ludwig's two teen sons will also be contacted about their helping to serve at the dinner again. Marlyn Steury will again provide nametags.

"At Large" Council Member Nominating Committee: In co-chair Neil Gorman's absence, Mike Newell reported that there has been no recent activity yet. They will confer shortly with the three parishioners who had discerned about the "At Large" Council positions in Spring 2013, expressing continued interest in these.

EVANGELIZATION DISCUSSION: Due to Tom Cordaro's absence tonight (for required attendance at the 2014 World Peace Day Interfaith Service planning meeting), Fr. Paul led tonight's evangelization discussion. This centered around the second 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. The following questions were provided in advance by Tom to assist with tonight's discussion:

- What did you find most interesting and/or confusing about this part of the document?
- What are some of the implications of the second half of this document on our efforts to order the life of the parish in response to our parish theme and missional directives?

Council then spent approximately thirty minutes in guided discussion about this document. Fr. Paul noted that, while this apostolic exhortation was primarily written by Third World bishops at a Synod which had met with Pope Paul VI ten years after Vatican II, it was written more from the bishops' perspective. It was initially written in Latin and then translated. Although some Council Members had originally expressed concerns about being able to understand this document due to its stylistic complexity, there was consensus about how pertinent its ideas about evangelization are today.

Among many discussion points, Council especially noted the following passages in *On Evangelization in the New World* as being very important:

- “There is an increasing amount of non-practicing baptized, many with a sense of their own personal spirituality or indifference.”
- “The world which, ...despite innumerable signs of the denial of God, is nevertheless searching for Him in unexpected ways and painfully experiencing the need of Him.”
- “The world calls for and expects from us simplicity of life, the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility, detaching and self-sacrifice. Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man.”
- “Evangelization loses much of its force and effectiveness if it does not take into consideration the actual people to whom it addresses, if it does not use their language, their signs and symbols, if it does not answer the questions they ask, and if it does not have an impact on their concrete life.”
- “There should be found in every Christian family the various aspects of the entire Church. Furthermore, the family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates.”
- “And such a family becomes family becomes the evangelizer of many other families, and of the neighborhood of which it forms part.”
- “Evangelization will never be possible without the action of the Holy Spirit.”

Council especially noted how much *On Evangelization in the New World* helps direct SMMP's new theme, “Live with Open Hearts and Open Arms,” and missional directives.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:25-8:40 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Larry Williams.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [No report received].

Fr. Paul reported that Mr. Jameson has studied the parish’s air conditioning system, noting some complications, including its also needing a different kind of coolant than what is currently in use. Installation of the church lighting is going well and is on schedule, and the lighting materials were delivered last week. Whenever weekday funeral Masses occur, the lighting installers cease their work within the church for a couple of hours, with the scaffolding remaining in place.

Due to current illness in Parish Business Manager Mike Prus' extended family, Fr. Paul will instead ask Sue Schroeder to write and submit Administration Commission meeting report(s) to Council.

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

Gus Fischer, CWC Representative, reported that Sunday Mass attendance counts (averaged over four weekends in October, 2013) have again decreased – these averaged counts are annually taken in October and submitted to the Diocese of Joliet. In 2013, Mass attendance averaged 1,500 attendees; in 2012, it averaged 1,700; and in 2011, it averaged 1,800. According to Gus, there was a most notable decline in this year's attendance at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Council inquired about feedback on the weekend pre-Mass announcements currently being made by members of the Liturgy team. Although it was felt that these occasionally were too long, the announcements appear to be favorably received and viewed as being more personal and direct.

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

Kim Cernek, CEC Representative, was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness. Barbara Burkhardt reviewed highlights from the current lengthy CEC report which Kim had submitted. She especially noted that there are currently five Inquirers participating in the R.C.I.A. Program.

Fr. Paul noted that he is very pleased with his recent once-weekly Religion class teaching experiences at ASCA (with his doing this once with each of the classes in Grades 6-8). He also hopes to visit and help teach many of SMMP's Religious Education throughout the year ahead. Council thanked Fr. Paul for these catechetical and pastoral efforts with the students.

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

Council posed no additional questions about the CSC Report, submitted by Tom Cordaro. Neither Tom nor Divia Ludwig, CSC Representative, was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CHURCH LIGHTING: [Please also refer to updates reported in the Administration Commission section above]. According to Fr. Paul, the lighting above the altar is now repaired, following a small fire. The repair cost \$750,

which included removal and replacement of the lighting fixture. Thankfully, the small fire was stopped when the circuit breaker had broken.

AD HOC COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE: Larry Williams reported that he has recently talked with Anne Lysaught about her interest in chairing this committee. Although she seemed very receptive to this, she noted that there are currently too many goals set for this new committee, with its more realistically being able to focus on only a few of these. Anne would also like to discuss this with Fr. Paul shortly.

Meanwhile, Council discussed what kind of possible future staff support might be needed, including skills with web design and social media.

FINAL “WHIP” AROUND: Comments included the following:

- “Great to see the proposals from the presenters.”
- “Good discussion with new ideas.”
- “I like the new ideas – good meeting.”
- “Evangelization challenge is a hefty one – it’s the core of why we’re here.”
- “I like [Deacon] Joe’s energy and ideas – he’s a real asset to our parish.”
- “I was happy that when reading [the] *Evangelization* [document], I got more out of it.”
- “*Evangelization* affirms where we’re going as a parish.”

CLOSING: Fr. Paul offered a closing prayer. Larry Williams was thanked for providing tonight’s refreshments.

The meeting concluded at 9:05 p.m.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd, starting at 7:00 p.m.

December Opening/Closing Prayer: Larry Williams
December Refreshments: Barbara Burkhardt

Respectfully submitted,
Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

Christian Worship Commission Report November, 2013

Music Ministry: The Lumen Christi Choir will participate in the Nov.11th Veterans Day Evening Service, and starting preparation for Christ the King, Advent, and Christmas. They are getting

ready to have a Children's Choir for Christmas. All Choirs are preparing for Advent, and the new Liturgical year.

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Ken and Barb are planning an EM training session on Monday, Nov.25th at 7:00 PM. Dan Lawler hopes to recruit Peer Teens to attend. An ad will be in the bulletin.

Lectors: We have 5 new lectors, including 2 teens and 2 twenty-something.

Sacristans: Met briefly with a person to train as a Sacristan. However found that she was more interested in becoming an EM. However she did say that she would be willing to be a Sacristan at the 5:00 PM Mass once she shadowed a Sacristan for a few times.

Greeters: We have just completed our annual count of parishioners attending the various Masses. This year we counted over 4 weekends hoping to get a better count. Again this year we are down from last year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 13th.

- Submitted by Gus Fischer

CEC October 2013 Report for PC for November 2013 Meeting

PreK-Grade 5 Report: Sue Davey

- This year, the Diocese of Joliet updated one of its policies regarding Sexual Abuse of Minors. They have also changed the requirements for acknowledging receipt of the documents. Not only are the volunteers required to sign the acknowledgment form, but all families (with at least one parent's signature) are also required to sign the form. E-mails were sent to all, and we set up tables in the Parish Center and 2nd Floor to have parents sign the documents. We also gave them to parents attending the First Reconciliation Meeting on October 22nd. The deadline is December 31st to collect all signatures. Most of our volunteers have signed, but we still have a substantial number due from parents. Overall, we estimate that somewhat over 50% of the documents have been returned.
- We hosted a series of three mini-courses offered by the Diocese of Joliet regarding the Creed: *I Believe in God the Father* was scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd. Session 2 (*I Believe in Jesus Christ*) was on October 9th, and Session 3 (*I Believe in the Holy Spirit*) was on October 30th. About ten people attended each session, including catechists (from here and other parishes) and parishioners.

- On November 23rd, we will have a Children's Mass at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Participation will be open to children in 1st to 5th Grade. Julie Carballo is again coordinating this Mass. Online registration should begin on or about November 4th.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

- Our dinner with the September Club was very successful with a lot of great interaction between our seniors and teens. The youth helped to set up and then ate dinner with the seniors. Some of them even stayed late to play cards and other games.
- Our high school groups distributed fliers for Harvest Sunday this weekend. We will be collecting food on November 3rd and then repacking and sorting. We were able to secure a donation of boxes from Barr Freight System through a parishioner. We will be donating our proceeds to the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry and Loaves and Fishes.
- Our Peer Ministers have been meeting on Monday nights to prepare for the Freshman Retreat on November 15-16.
- We received confirmation about our Confirmation Date. Bishop Siegel will be presiding for us on April 11, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Madelyn Gould

- BIBLE STUDY: A dinner to give thanks to Pat Frank for her 27 years of leading Bible Study will occur on Nov. 19. We announced to both the morning and evening groups that David Schimmel will be our new Bible Study leader, beginning next September. David has an M.A. in Theology and an M.Div. Will also compose the study book. Wants to integrate spirituality and Bible study...along with keeping the small discussion groups.
- BUSINESS BREAKFASTS: On October 19, Judith Logue spoke about "Forgiveness in the Work Place." 23 attended. Julie Lomax treated us to a healthy and delicious breakfast.
- EVENING ENRICHMENT: Twenty-five parishioners attended the session on October 16. Topic: "The Spirituality of Grandparenting." Kathleen Heskin, professor at Dominican University, was our speaker.
- MORNING ENRICHMENT: Forty were present for the Morning Enrichment on Oct. 9. Four of our parishioners spoke about "How We Pray." Marcia Mackenbrock facilitated the panel presentation. Inspiring!
- THREADS: WEAVING FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS: A planning session for the Dec. 11 Threads Event took place Oct. 14. Catechists have volunteered to take responsibility for the various Stations of "Our Journey to Bethlehem."
- R.C.I.A.: We have 5 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. On November 3, these Inquirers will be introduced to our faith community at the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

- LIBRARY: Victoria Kosirog continues to keep our library in good working condition. Gratias!

All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan

- We will be celebrating our Feast Day on Friday with Mass and many other activities, especially in the Junior High.
- Our ITBS scores are back, and our students did well again.
- Parent Conferences are November 7 and 8.

- Submitted by Kim Cernek

CSC Report: November, 2013

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: We had our monthly meeting and we for the first time since our Ministry started in 1999 had no new cases! We said prayers for all families listed in Book of Remembrance and we said prayers for. The families who were mentioned at the masses who had a family member that was sick; We discussed the Remembrance Mass and final plans will be done at our November meeting.

DAY BREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: Our guest progresses in our program. We are getting ready to celebrate our last Thanksgiving and Christmas with our family and trying to prepare them for graduation in June/July. We run new budgets, work with different scenarios and discuss future career options. We will be reviewing neighborhood choices for the existence of affordable housing and good schools-and of course we deal with car problems. As she still has car payments for another year and a half this is a big deal.

MEN'S CLUB: SMMP Men's Club held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday 10/15 in the parish center. After a social hour and dinner, the meeting took place, following its regular agenda of business highlighted by reports from its commission heads; Spiritual, Social, Membership, Fund Raising and Charitable. Primary focus of the meeting was to review results of the August parish picnic and related matters. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday Nov 18.

PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP: Our parish social mission week, "Dignity & Respect: The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor" went very well. The response to our postcard campaign directed at the House of Representatives to urge a vote on the bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill that passed in the Senate was good; Approximately 250 cards each to Reps. Roskam and Foster. On Sunday, November

10th we will be hosting a Fair Trade / Earth Care Christmas Gift Fair after all Masses. As part of our efforts to be a more welcoming community we are encouraging parishioners to invite their neighbors to the fair and the Naperville Sun will run an article about the fair, letting folks know that the public is welcome.

SEPTEMBER CLUB: On Saturday afternoon October 5, 2013, 40 members and guests gathered in church for the 5:00 PM Mass in Honor of Deceased Members of the September Club. This was followed by a complimentary dinner in the Parish Center served by the YOUTH MINISTRY of Saint Margaret Mary Parish under the direction of Dan Lawler, Director of Youth Ministry. The dinner was prepared and served by the teens in the Youth Ministry and they then joined their guests at the dinner table. After they completed the cleanup they participated in games with their guests. President Irene Gasior presented Dan Lawler with a cash gift to benefit the Youth Ministry. Dan and all the teens deserve a big "Thank You". They did themselves proud. As is the monthly custom, October birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and all present were encouraged to remember those who are ill in their prayers. Guests were told that the November outing would be to the Bohemian Crystal restaurant in Westmont. President Irene Gasior announced that job descriptions for the elective offices were available and she encouraged members to actively participate in the elections to be held later this year with the new terms set to begin in 2014.

SHARING PARISH: The October 29 meeting with members of Sacred Heart Parish was concentrated on their concerns for providing Youth Ministry. Candy Rice spoke extensively from her experience, and her suggestions were enthusiastically received. We were all invited to Mass and breakfast at Sacred Heart on November 3. Maureen Guttosch is collecting Thanksgiving donations of food certificates and turkeys to be distributed at Sacred Heart, St. Nicholas, and SMMP. Donations should be dropped off in the Parish Office by November 25. Food certificates can also be dropped in the collection basket.

-- Submitted by Tom Cordaro
