

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
March 4, 2014

Members Participating: Barbara Burkhardt, Kim Cernek, Tom Cordaro, Gus Fischer, Neil Gorman, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Divia Ludwig, Mike Newell, Larry Williams, Barb Zdon
Members Absent: Marian Stricker

Council President Barbara Burkhardt opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. in Room 8 at SMMP. Gus Fischer offered an opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2014 MEETING MINUTES:

Council approved the meeting minutes from February 4, 2014, with Gus Fischer moving, Neil Gorman seconding, and Council approving these. The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY: Noting the excellent presentation which Jennifer Curtin and Mary Oliphant had made last month to Council about this new ministry, Barbara led Council in discussion about into which of the two Commissions (Christian Education [CEC] or Service [CSC]) the Mental Health Ministry would best fit. Council determined that the most logical choice would be the Christian Education Commission, due to its intergenerational focus and impact. As noted by Council, mental health issues can affect the entire family unit and that awareness, education, hope, and action should be made available for all age levels that are served educationally by our parish (K-Grade 5, youth ministry, and adult education).

Council recommended that a similar introductory presentation about the Mental Health Ministry be made to the CEC. There are also no budgetary requests for FY2014/15 currently being made by this ministry. Council also recommended that a Mental Health Ministry representative be welcomed into attendance at the CEC planning meetings, possibly participating at these on alternating months.

PARISH TOWN HALL MEETING: Council selected 5/18/14 for the annual Town Hall Meeting, which will begin immediately after the 12:15 p.m. Sunday Mass. Tom Cordaro will reserve the meeting room for this. At next month's meeting, Council will continue to discuss possible meeting topics and set a tentative agenda for the Town Hall Meeting.

PARISH SURVEY: Plans were made tonight for the Parish Survey Group (Barbara Burkhardt, Gus Fischer, and Marian Stricker, along with Tom Cordaro and a few Staff Members) to meet on 3/14/14 at 9 a.m. in the Staff Meeting Room. This group will be developing an electronic survey to be used with the entire parish about how the Missional Directives and Parish Theme are impacting parishioners' lives. This initial survey will be conducted shortly after Easter.

2014 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES ANNUAL APPEAL: Council would like to receive a list of additional and updated parishioner e-mail addresses, which were obtained through last year's Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal envelope distribution and collection conducted at the Sunday Masses. This information was submitted from the Diocese to SMMP in a file. Tom will talk with Mike Prus and Rita Thompson about this.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [No report received].

According to Fr. Paul, the Administration Commission has not recently met, except by communicating electronically. The members are currently working on the church HVAC study, in anticipation of the church air conditioning system's upcoming replacement. Administration plans to be meeting soon about this.

The Finance Committee has recently sent out budget preparation information to the Commissions, with Commission input needed soon for the parish's FY2014/15 budget.

Christian Worship (CWC): [CWC Monthly Report March, 2014 was submitted by Gus Fischer in advance, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Gus Fischer, CWC Representative, stated that several CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] and AED [automated external defibrillator] training sessions will be offered to the Greeters before Easter, at a cost of \$10 per person. This training will be offered by a parishioner.

Although the new online sign-up process for Sunday Mass gift bearer groups and families is still going slowly, Council suggested ways to also incorporate some of the parish ministry groups as gift bearers. A ministry group might present a few additional items representing its respective ministry, e.g. a PADS volunteer group carrying new blankets along with the offertory gifts. The gift-bearing ministry group might then be mentioned as part of the Sunday pre-Mass announcements. Meanwhile, Kim Cernek noted what a good experience it was for her Quest Group to recently serve as a gift bearer group.

Christian Education (CEC): [CEC February Report for March 2014 Meeting was submitted by Kim Cernek in advance, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Kim Cernek, CEC Representative, confirmed that Dan Lawler, Director of Youth Ministry, had not submitted a recent report but that he is very busy preparing students for confirmation. She updated Council about how high school students can now sign up for their confirmation interviews online, also selecting date, time, and interviewer for these.

Christian Service (CSC): [CSC Report for March, 2014 was submitted by Tom Cordaro in advance, a copy of which is shown hereto].

There were no questions posed tonight to Divia Ludwig, CSC Representative. Tom Cordaro reported that the “after Mass meet-up’s” with several CSC ministries had had generated good interest in the Narthex on a recent Sunday. PADS, Parish Nursery, and the Men’s Club had gained new volunteers through this format. Tom suggested that other ministries and Commissions try using this recruitment format, although advance coordination through the Parish Office is needed for this.

According to Tom, the film “Band of Sisters” will be shown at SMMP on 4/30/14 at 7:30 p.m. Its producer will also be in attendance at this. In addition, the Women at Risk boutique items will be offered for sale on 4/27/14 after the Sunday Masses for possible Mother’s Day purchases.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Communications Committee: Larry Williams reported that the committee met last Tuesday night, with this having been a “great meeting.” The committee has clearly defined what it wants to do, including incorporating the parish’s Missional Directives into the parish website. Meanwhile, next Tuesday night’s meeting will be with the web design company representative. According to Larry, the website redesign requires a multi-phase approach, with this initial redesign phase being only the first of many phases needing to be done in a logical order. While the parish’s current website works adequately for “regular companions,” there is still much more to be desired for communicating with “occasional travelers.”

Council discussed the importance and challenges of maintaining the parish website, needing someone to continue with its ongoing upkeep. Despite there being so many planned website communication needs ahead, Larry stated that implementing this first phase will be a good first step, for which he is “glad to get going.”

Nominating Committee:

Neil Gorman reviewed the nomination process ahead for the new “At Large” Council Members, noting that nomination forms will appear in the parish bulletin, starting at the end of this month and running for three weeks. This nomination process offers the chance for interested parishioners to self-nominate or nominate others.

Especially due to the upcoming big turnover on Pastoral Council for 2014-15, it is crucial that, by Spring 2014, each of the four Commissions identify their replacement representative who will serve on Council. Each of these four incoming Commission Representatives should also participate in a Council Orientation Meeting (choosing either the meeting offered on 4/23 or 4/29), joining those who will be discerning for the two At-Large Council Member positions. Reportedly, there is a replacement representative for CSC and CEC, while the CWC representative is “close” to deciding. There is no word received from the Administration Commission yet about an incoming representative.

CLOSING: Gus Fischer provided “The Prayer of St. Francis” for tonight’s closing. At 8:05 p.m., the meeting ended, followed by Council’s enjoying refreshments provided by Gus.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held in Room 8 at SMMP on Tuesday, April 1st, starting at 7:00 p.m.

*April Opening/Closing Prayer: Divia Ludwig
April Refreshments: Divia Ludwig*

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

CWC Monthly Report March, 2014

Lector notes:

We completed our 3rd lector feedback session. About ½ of the lector group participated over the three Saturday’s, and the feedback was terrific. Mary Oliphant and John Blumberg prepared a list of the most common things they saw. We hope that this helps them to become even better. Another session is set for May.

We are continuing to recruit more teen and 20-something lectors to make this team more diverse, and get younger people involved in the parish.

Gift Bearer:

On line sign up has been steady, but slower than we hoped. We are attempting to find ways to get more parishioners involved. We will continue to advertise, and hope that each member of the Parish Council signs their family up for a weekend.

Art & Environment:

We have been busy getting ready for Lent. We are also preparing for Taize, which is Sunday, March 9th at 6:30 pm. Hope to see everyone there!

We want to thank everyone for their donations for flowers at Christmas.

Music Ministry:

We are presenting Taize this Sunday March 9th at 6:30pm. We hope to have a good turnout. We are also busy preparing for Lent.

Greeters:

We are scheduling several training classes for CPR and Defibrillator. Ann Beccavin will be training 2 sessions of 10 greeters each, later this month, and another 2 sessions later this summer. The remaining greeters will be trained next year.

EM's:

Nothing to report this month

Baptism Asst. & Sacristans:

No Report

-- Submitted by Gus Fischer

CEC February Report for March 2014 Meeting

PreK-Grade 5 Report: Sue Davey

- Due to weather conditions, we canceled the weekend classes on February 1st and 2nd. Despite the weather, the Children's Mass on February 1st (Saturday) was well attended. Julie and Nick Carballo have agreed to continue to coordinate the Children's Masses next year.
- The first parent-only meeting for First Communion was February 4th. Despite the bad weather, the meeting was well attended. We are still waiting for the registration from one family. The retreat is scheduled for March 8th, and the Bread Service will be March 11 and 12. The final Candle Blessing Rite will be on the weekend of March 15/16.
- During the week of February 22-26, we had our Catechist Open House during and after classes. Catechists were invited to come down to the RE Office for some fellowship, punch, and cookies, while browsing the various activities available for Lent.
- On March 5th, we will have a prayer service at 4:00 p.m. for Ash Wednesday. I have eleven volunteers to distribute ashes. We will also have extra chairs set up in the Narthex. I am still working on getting the readers for the service.
- The 5th Graders will present the Stations of the Cross during the last half of class time during the week of March 22-26.
- Spring break begins on March 29th, and classes will resume on April 7th.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

- No report submitted.

Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Madelyn Gould

- **BOOK STUDY:** The Book Study Group is in its tenth year! Seventy books have been read and discussed! The March book is *Francis of Assisi: the Life and Afterlife of a Medieval Saint* by Andre Varuchez.
- **BIBLE STUDY:** Small Group Leaders met with David on February 2nd to make plans for next Fall. Together, they decided that we will focus on the Pentateuch.
- **BUSINESS BREAKFASTS:** In February, we enjoyed a presentation on "Successful Servant Leadership" by Bill Droel. Dr. Jerry Hiller will conclude our 2013-14 series with a presentation on "Anxiety, Stress, and Balance."
- **EVENING ENRICHMENT:** Al Gustafson gave a presentation on "Self Reflection" on February 19th. Thirteen parishioners attended.
- **MORNING ENRICHMENT:** In February, Fr. Paul focused on "When I Disagree with Church Teachings." 55 were in attendance. The session will be repeated on March 25th (7:30-9:00 p.m.).
- **RETREATS:** The fourth group of retreatants began the Ignation Retreat on January 27th -- 15 are registered. On the weekend of January 25-26, Women's CRHP was held. There were 21 guests, with 11 on the Presenting Team. Seventeen came to the Debriefing Session on February 2nd. February 14-16 was the weekend for the Women's Preached Retreat in Mundelein, IL. Title: "Why After You, Brother Francis?" 29 attended. The retreat will be given to the men on February 28-March 2. 17 have registered.
- **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** There are 27 directees.
- **TABLE FOR TWO:** "Marriage -- Purpose and Passion" took place on February 15th. Close to 400 attended. *Kudos* to the planning committee.
- **THREADS: WEAVING FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS:** March 14th is the date of our next Threads Event -- "Pray All Ways." Registration forms will be in Sunday's bulletin. To date, two families have registered.
- **R.C.I.A.:** On March 9th, the Candidates will participate in a special ceremony at the 9:00 a.m. Mass and then go to the Cathedral in the afternoon. Watch for the pictures and write-up of each candidate in the bulletin during Lent.
- **LIBRARY:** Victoria Kosirog continues to keep our library in good working condition. *Gratias!*
- **OTHER:** Marcia Mackenbrock and I are preparing for our March 12th Day of Reflection for St. Margaret Mary Parish.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan

- Our Lenten theme is: *Following Matthew: Transforming the Kingdom.*
- Our Lenten project is to collect clothing for the children of Hogar del Pobre Orphanage.
- On Holy Thursday, our 7th Graders will reenact the Last Supper, and the classes will have their hands washed by their teachers.

- Our 7th Graders will help guide our 6th Graders in a mini-retreat focused on offering the hope of Jesus to people incarcerated.
- On the academic side, we are working hard on both Standards for Excellence and AdvancEd evaluations. We also have initiatives with new report cards, weekly Mass attendance, and alignment to the Common Core Standards.

- Submitted by Kim Cernek

CSC Report for March, 2014

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: We had our meeting 6 new client cases for assignment and we opened in prayer and we said prayers for all those listed in the Book of Remembrance and our Parish families who recently had a loss. We passed out our new Bereavement Brochure. Everyone liked it; our next meeting is March 19th.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS: Our committee has already distributed all of its funds for the year. No meeting was held.

COMFORT CARE: There were no Funeral Lunches or Emergency Meals for this month.

DAYBREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE: Our guest was grateful to the Contemporary Choir for her Christmas bounty; bright spot in a difficult time. As she has reached the 18 month mark she is starting to strain under the yoke of being monitored. We hope we can keep her on board to go to the end of June. Our landlord is not renewing our lease so we are facing an apartment hunt-and rents have gone up. Our current building has been very reasonable so we are hoping to locate a charitable landlord who would accept our Daybreak guests (this is not easy). We try to find a unit with walk to shopping if possible as it makes it easier when they have car trouble. We need a two bedroom. Please announce our need for an apartment.

NURSERY: Here are the numbers for February: 2/2 - 9am: 1 kid, 1 family & 10:45am: 4 kids, 3 families. 2/9 - 9am: 2 kids, 2 families & 10:45am: 4 kids, 3 families. 2/16 - 9am: 4 kids, 3 families & 10:45am: 4 kids, 4 families. 2/23 - 9am: 5 kids, 4 families & 10:45am: 3 kids, 3 families

PASTORAL CARE: Pastoral Care gained 4 more persons interested in volunteering during the CSC Sunday; Pastoral Care members will not provide ashes for Sunrise---one of the occupants has a Priest as a brother.

PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP: In February we held our last parish social mission week of the fiscal year. The theme was "Called to be Salt & Light for the World." The focus was on the call to advocate for the poor, oppressed, marginalized and voiceless in our nation and around the world. We

were invited parishioners to sign-up to be members of our parish E-Mail Legislative Action Alert Network after all Masses. We were able to sign up 61 parishioners. On Sunday, April 27th we will be inviting the Women At Risk boutique to sell gifts and jewelry after all Masses for Mother's Day. The items sold are made by survivors of human trafficking. Educational information about human trafficking will be published in the bulletin as part of the promotion. Our **EARTH CARE COMMITTEE** finished its Christmas Light Recycling Project for the year. Overall we collected 1546 pounds of old Christmas lights that earned us \$231.90 from the recycling company we work with. The money we collect will be used to off-set the costs of moving from Styrofoam cups, plates and bowls to more environmentally friendly paper products.

SEPTEMBER CLUB: On Wednesday afternoon February 5, 2014, 39 members and guests gathered in the Parish Center for a Pizza and Salad lunch. Guests were treated to a selection of Rosatis' pizzas and a mixed green salad which was provided by Charlotte Gucwa. Father Paul began lunch with a prayer. After lunch, new President Charlotte Gucwa announced that the weekend of February 15th and 16th the parish has scheduled an "After Mass Meet-up" to promote the work of Christian Service Committees such as the September Club. Representatives of four committees will be present in the narthex after all masses to talk about their committees and to recruit new members. Charlotte said that we are looking for September Club members to help us be represented after each of the weekend masses. Charlotte also announced that the March meeting would be moved to the second Wednesday because of Ash Wednesday falling on the first Wednesday. She asked members to watch for the announcement in the weekly bulletin. January and February birthdays and anniversaries were recognized and all present were encouraged to remember those who are ill in their prayers.

SHARING PARISH: Checks totaling \$5500 have been sent to four Catholic schools in Aurora for second semester tuition support for nine students. Applications for tuition assistance for the 2014-15 school year will be made available soon. Tamale orders were delivered on December 22 and March 2. Requests for food gift certificates and Easter hams for distribution at St. Nicholas, Sacred Heart, and SMMP will appear in the bulletin shortly. The annual Garage Sale to raise money for the Scholarship Fund will be held on Friday, August 1 from 8am to 8pm and Saturday, August 2 from 8am to 1 pm. Donations will be accepted beginning Saturday, July 26. SMMP facilities, charity trucks for pick-up of left-overs, and Boy Scout assistance with clean-up have all been confirmed.

- Submitted by Tom Cordaro