

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 7, 2014

Members Participating: Cabrina Attal, Tom Cordaro, Neil Gorman, Victoria Kosirog, Janene Parisi, Phil Samuels, Tom Zakosek, Barb Zdon

Members Absent: Fr. Paul Hottinger, Mike Newell, Marian Stricker

Council President Barb Zdon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP. Neil Gorman led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Council approved the meeting minutes from September 2, 2014, with Neil Gorman moving, Phil Samuels seconding, and the Council approving these. The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Parish Picnic (9/07/14): Barb Zdon thanked the Men's Club for the recent Parish Picnic (held on 9/07/14). She was sad to learn that this year's attendance was down for this wonderful event.

Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (1/17/15): Neil Gorman reported that plans are in place for the dinner to be prepared by parishioner Roy Taylor. Roy will use the same menu (gourmet pasta and salad) which was served at the Men's Club Couples Night Dinner [6/17/14]. Council discussed the possibility of again seeking the optional provision of appetizers and desserts by dinner attendees.

Nominations Committee Update: Nominations Committee Co-Chairs Victoria Kosirog and Phil Samuels reported their being pleased to have recently received a couple of possible new candidates' names. Candidates will discern for the two new At-Large Council positions, which will open in June 2015.

Concealed Carry Gun Prohibition Signs: The concealed carry gun prohibition signs are now posted on the church facility doors, at the Bishop of Joliet's request and in adherence to the City of Naperville's guidelines. Barb Zdon reported having recently received many calls of concern about this, mostly from seniors in the parish. According to Village of Lisle Mayor Joe Broda, the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act prohibits guns in municipal buildings, schools, and places of worship, with an exclusion for law enforcement personnel when required to carry a gun at all times as part of their employment.

Parish Leadership Gathering (9/13/14): Although unable to attend the Parish Leadership Workshop Day on 9/13/14, Barb Zdon extended her thanks to the Parish Leadership for their wonderful and very productive workshop day.

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PARISH SURVEY: Tom Cordaro led Council in a discussion about the final draft of the *Parish Theme Survey Final Report*, which analyzed the parish-wide survey about awareness and interest in the two-year parish theme “Live with Open Hearts and Open Arms.” The *Preliminary Report from Our Parish Theme Survey* had appeared in the parish bulletin on 7/06/14 and focused primarily on survey respondent demographics. The Final Report included a more in-depth analysis of the survey. It noted that 80% of the 365 survey responders were mostly over 45 years old and were church attendees. As a result, the Leadership Community “...wants to take up the challenge of reaching out to those missing from our survey – young adults.” While this first set of data points are instructive, Tom Cordaro also noted that there is some divisiveness within the parish about welcoming the LGBT community, according to the parish theme of “Live with Open Hearts and Open Arms.” The parish is now beginning the second year of its two-year parish theme, “Live with Open Hearts and Open Arms.”

Neil Gorman moved, Victoria Kosirog seconded, and the Council approved the Parish Theme Final Survey. It will now appear in the parish bulletin and on the parish web site, along with a story about the 9/13/14 Parish Leadership Gathering.

DISCERNMENT WORK FOR CYCLE 1 - PARISHIONER INTERVIEWS: Tom Cordaro acknowledged the hard work of the Parish Leadership Committee in recently conducting one-on-one parishioner interviews and qualitatively submitting reports on their content (while maintaining interviewee anonymity). Tom has now received 31 reports (with an original goal of 40), for which an even higher amount of Occasional Travelers and a younger demographic were included than hoped. Council reported that these one-on-one parishioner interviews provided good and enlightening experiences.

Tom then led Council in a 45-minute discussion about the common threads of these parishioner interviews. Interviewees had shared their thoughts about the following areas:

1. Concerns about self and family
2. Concerns about the community and the world
3. Hopes and where God is seen
4. Signs of the times

These common threads were then compared to those noted by the interviews conducted by Staff. Descriptive (rather than prescriptive) questions were formulated, which included:

1. How has the role of church changed over time?
2. How do people develop or find role models/ wisdom figures?
3. How are people coping?

The Parish Leadership will continue to reflect on these questions and will begin to compile “cultural resources” to help address the questions identified.

Following this, Council took a break from 8:30-8:40 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Neil Gorman.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [No report received].

There was no representative in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Christian Worship (CWC): [No report received in advance].

Tom Zakosek, CWC Representative, apologized for not having submitted a report in advance, due to his very recently having been traveling out of the country.

He shared a Eucharistic Ministry report submitted by Barb Ryan. Deacon Ken and Barb Ryan have already held two training sessions for teens. These teens will hopefully serve at the Quest-led Masses throughout the year (at specific 12:15 p.m. Sunday Masses). There will be a general training session for new Eucharist Ministers on 10/18/14 at 3:30-4:30 p.m. at church.

Barb Ryan will be the new Sacristan Coordinator, taking over this job from Ingrid VanDril.

Council raised some concern tonight about the recently diminishing size of the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass Choir. Tom will try to learn more about this and report back to Council.

Christian Education (CEC): [***CEC Ministry Reports for September 2014 was submitted by Janene Parisi in advance, a copy of which is shown hereto.***]

Janene Parisi, CEC Representative, noted that Health & Wellness had not submitted any report.

As new CEC Representative, Janene noted that some of the Commission's By-Laws were quite dated, with their last update in 1995. The CEC further reviewed and discussed these By-Laws, with their noting how they should also be serving as an advisory rather than just as a representative group for the parish. In an effort to help make the CEC more approachable by parishioners, Janene suggested that an upcoming bulletin article, similar to the parish "Heartbeat" feature, be included about the CEC – Tom Cordaro has offered to help them write this. The CEC's next meeting will be tomorrow night, and they will also discuss some additional ways to better communicate with parishioners about their advisory role, e.g. through the CEC bulletin board and on the web pages through the parish website.

It was noted that each of the four parish Commissions has its own binder(s), also containing its respective By-Laws.

Tom Cordaro recommended that each of the four Commissions and some of their committees and ministries can participate in After Mass Meet-Up's with parishioners within the Narthex, as scheduled on specific Sundays in advance. The Meet-Up is informal, requiring little set-up and taking up very little space. Although no tables would be set up for this in the Narthex, each meet-up group would have a "flag" set up, indicating their gathering location and name. The group's representative presence could also be included in the pre-Mass announcements, and their group might also opt to serve as the offertory gift bearers at Mass. Tom noted that several committees within CSC are already scheduled for upcoming After Mass Meet-Up's, including the following: Food Pantry and Blood Drive; Pastoral Care and Men's Club; and Knights of Columbus and September Club. Most importantly, interested groups need to plan and schedule their After Mass Meet-Up table in advance.

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

There were no additional questions posed to Cabrina Attal, CSC Representative.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: As a follow-up to last month's presentation by Chuck Schlabach and Chuck Graber about the formation of the Knights of Columbus Council 16011, Council discussed their response letter, which will be written and sent to the attention Chuck Graber. The letter will include the following points:

- The Knights of Columbus Council 16011 will become part of SMMP's Christian Service Commission (CSC).
- The new K of C council will need to file monthly reports to the CSC, to be shared with Pastoral Council and the parish.
- Deacon Ken Miles will serve as the K of C's Chaplain.
- The new K of C council will be responsible to contact Fr. Paul about their upcoming installation Mass.
- The new K of C council will be required to notify the CSC about any and all of its fundraising programs.

Pastoral Council approved the establishment of the Knights of Columbus Council 16011 at St. Margaret Mary Parish. The K of C Council 16011 will be part of SMMP's Christian Service Commission, providing monthly written reports to it and notifying them about any and all of its fundraising projects.

OUTREACH TO NEW LISLE SUBDIVISION: As suggested by Sr. Madelyn and Fr. Paul, Council discussed sending a postcard to welcome residents in the new Arbor Trace subdivision in Lisle to St. Margaret Mary Parish. It was thought that such a postcard should include Mass times and parish website information. Victoria Kosirog offered helpful information about the use of the postal service's very economical Door to Door Direct mailing service. Tom Cordaro will work with Victoria about using Door to Door Direct for this neighborhood welcome postcard.

OTHER: Tom Cordaro requested that Council Members “keep their eyes open” for articles about the current culture and Signs of the Times (about the time and place where we live). Any articles relating to these should be sent to him.

CLOSING PRAYER: Neil Gorman offered a closing prayer.

Following this, the meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in the Upper Room at St. Margaret Mary on Tuesday, November 4th, starting at 7:00 p.m.

November Opening/Closing Prayer: Victoria Kosirog

November Refreshments: Victoria Kosirog

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

CEC Ministry Reports for September 2014

PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey

On Saturday, October 4th we are having a special blessing of pets in celebration of the Feast Day for St. Francis of Assisi. The prayer service will be held in the courtyard outside the parish center.

First Reconciliation information was mailed to parents. The first parent only meeting is Tuesday, October 21st. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st.

So far, 51 parents of First Communicants families have registered to attend a Sacramental Parent Retreat.

12 – Sunday, October 19th

28 – Sunday, January 11th

11 – Sunday, February 1st

Reminders have gone out to parents.

The series of First Communion blessing rites begin the weekend of October 25/26 with the signing of the cross. The blessings will be given at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday and the 9:00 and 10:15 a.m. Masses on Sunday.

The Safe Environment program begins Saturday, October 25th and ends on Wednesday, October 29th. Children in Grades 2-5 will view *The Safe Side – Internet Safety* and the K-1 Grades will review the book *It's My Body*.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

Our first two Chosen formation sessions went fairly well. We have been getting positive feedback from several of the teens and parents. It has been challenging to get parents to schedule the makeup sessions but the ones who have come in have said they liked the videos and conversations. We will continue to evaluate the absences and schedule for the sessions.

The youth-led Masses are off to a good start also. Terry Wagner has been helping to schedule and train the lectors. Barb Ryan has trained a few teen Eucharistic Ministers and scheduled another training to do more. We had teens greeting and bringing up the gifts at both Masses. A few teens have helped with music but we are working with John Schlaman to determine the best way to serve that group.

The catechists have been using the new wireless network and TV's on a fairly regular basis. We will continue to add more YouTube videos as we find more appropriate resources. So far it's going well!

We have started our preparations for the Freshmen Retreat in November and will be using Matthew 5:14-16 as our focus for the retreat.

We will be hosting Doug Bruno on October 18th at 3 pm in the Upper Room for a talk on balancing his catholicity and his background as a coach, parent, and athlete.

Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Madelyn Gould

Book study:

Twelve attended the book study in September, discussing *SOMEONE* by Alice McConnell. November book is *LIVING WITH A WILD GOD*. December book will be *ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT* by Erek Remarque

Bible study:

We have 72 registered!! All seems to be going well with our new leader, David Schimmel. Participants speak highly of him.

Business breakfasts:

Speaker, John Blumberg got us off to a great start last Saturday with his presentation on Every Leader Need a Front Porch. 38 attended.

Evening enrichment:

The COR Center was brimming with people and enthusiasm last Wednesday night. 80 attended Al Gustafson's presentation on THE INCONVENIENT TRUTHS OF ADULTHOOD. Inspiring!

Morning enrichment:

Thirty-five were out to hear Terry Nelson-Johnson on "Make Room for Joy." This month Fr. Joel Rippinger will speak on "Lectio Divina: Ancient Prayer for Modern Times."

Retreats:

Both the Men's CRHP and Women's CRHP Teams are recruiting for their upcoming retreats. At present the Men have four registrations. We are hoping for at least four more! Registrations are coming in for the Day of Quiet on Oct. 17...to be held at St. Procopius Abbey. The Ignatian Retreat continues to meet on Monday evenings with 14 retreatants. This retreat will end with a Day of Reflection on Oct. 24th at the Morton Arboretum. We have 15 registered for the 2015 retreat to begin on Jan. 26th.

Spiritual direction:

Twenty directees

Table for Two:

Rev. Ken Potts will be our presenter on October 26th. Topic: The Need for Intimacy.

R.C.I.A.:

Four men and their sponsors have been meeting weekly. On Nov. 2nd they will be introduced to the parish community at the 9:00 Mass.

Library:

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

Other:

- On Oct. 19 there is a mini-retreat for parents who have children being Confirmed and making First Eucharist. Ken Miles and I will be doing the portion on Baptism.
- Saturday night, October 4th, we are having "Scripture Alive - A Dramatic Presentation." At present, only about 50 have registered. We are hoping for 200!

Mental Health and Wellness: Jen Curtain

Report pending.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan

Safety and Security Enhancements:

ASCA's Board of Trustees and School Board have been reviewing the school's facilities over the last few months, with a special emphasis on enhancing the safety of our children. The

Boards were advised by our school safety consultant to install a fence around the playground, and also to purchase and install Raptor, the nation's leading K-12 visitor management software (<http://www.raptortech.com/>).

October Book Drive:

ASCA will be hosting a book drive to benefit Catholic Charities' Foster Grandparent Program from now through Friday, October 31st. This program allows seniors to volunteer in the Head Start Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms and read to children from very low income families. There are over 800 kids in the program and last year families donated enough books so that all of the kids received at least one book for Christmas.

Momnipotent – Faith Formation for Moms:

ASCA moms meet once a month to read *Momnipotent* by Danielle Bean. The moms discuss how to find peace, balance and joy in motherhood. The study includes reading one chapter a month, as well as completing an accompanying journal if desired.

- Submitted by Janene Parisi

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CSC Report: October, 2014

Our commission came together on Sept. 18th for a meeting and social to look ahead at the year. Two major outcomes of our meeting:

- 1. In response to the desire among parishioners for a parish-wide inter-generational service project, members of the CSC are exploring two ideas for the spring. The first is a one-day medical clinic for the underserved members of the Naperville/Lisle community. The second is a walk-for-a-cause to support the work of one or more local or international organizations that serve the poor. We hope to have a decision of which of these projects will move forward this year soon.*
 - 2. The CSC is also organizing After Mass Meet-Ups for some of our committees on the weekends of Oct. 11/12, Oct. 18/19 and Nov.1-2.*
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BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: At our last meeting new cases were assigned. There was lots of chatter in getting links for different resources and email addresses; we are going to continue this discussion at our next meeting. We will be starting planning for our Remembrance Mass; The date this year is Thursday, December 11th at 7:00PM.

BLOOD DRIVE: Blood Drive coming up on October 18th. Please consider donating!

DAYBREAK TRANSITIONAL HOUSING: Our new guests are settling in. The Contemporary Choir did a furniture drive for us so, while the guest moved in before the furniture was picked up and set up. All is now in order. When we made a plea for a car for our new family, a parishioner answered our plea at the picnic. This parishioner just happened to be a member of the Choir, also. That choir is a big supporter of our program and we appreciate it. The daughter received great news after entering our program-she was accepted in the National Honor Society. She is currently a junior in high school, in Addison. Lots of potential with this family.

MEN'S CLUB: The Men's Club met on Sept. 16th at 7:00 PM. We had 74 men's attend this meeting. We followed our normal order of business approving minutes and reviewing financial reports from the Secretary and Treasurer. Picnic results are not in yet but initial results indicate we have received less income due to higher costs and lower attendance. The President and officers thanked the members of our parish and the Men's Club for their outstanding work. We know that meetings and planning through the year and on the day of the picnic require greater than 1000 hours of volunteer work from our members.

Under new business we approved two new service projects

1. St. Vincent DePaul resident helping this family move to a new apartment on Saturday Oct. 11th
2. Loaves and Fishes, we will be working on Saturday Oct 25th at this food pantry.

Our guest speaker was Men's Club member Ton Cordaro. Tom gave a presentation on different generations, how they perceive religion. Churches that are using a consumer message and how St. Margaret Many is choosing to take a different path to achieve our mission. The discussion was well received with many questions and interaction from the members.

NURSERY: Attendance reports for September: 9/7 - 9am: 6 kids, 4 families & 10:45am: 4 kids, 4 families. 9/14 - 9am: 6 kids, 4 families & 10:45am: none. 9/21 - 9am: 1 kid, 1 family & 10:45am: 1 kid, 1 family. 9/28 - 9am: 4 kids, 2 families & 10:45am: 3 kids, 3 families.

PEACE & JUSTICE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP: Plans are being made for our first parish social mission week of the fall. The theme will be "Opening our Hearts & Arms to the Stranger and the Orphan" and the kick-off liturgies will be Oct. 26/25. The focus will be on the humanitarian refugee crisis at our border with the arrival of thousands of unaccompanied children. Msgr. Ted Bertagni, with Cross Catholic Outreach, will be speaking at all Masses about the humanitarian work they do around the world (including Central America) that address the root causes of why these children come. We will also be asking parishioners to sign postcards to President Obama asking that the legal and human rights of these children be protected as they apply for asylum.

SEPTEMBER CLUB: On Wednesday, September 3, 47 members & guests gathered together in the Parish Center for a catered lunch or sandwiches, salads, & delicious desserts Father Tom led us in prayer.

As is the monthly custom, members were asked to remember those members who are ill as well as members who recently passed away in their prayers. This month we remembered Audrey Iversen who died in August. August birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. In October we will meet in the Parish Center following the 5:00 Mass honoring our deceased members. Details will be in the upcoming bulletin.

SHARING PARISH: Checks sent to Aurora Catholic Schools for first semester tuition assistance totaled \$6827.50 for eight children in six families.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: This Month SVDP helped 11 families, 10 of these families received rent or utilities help. Check book balance improved a little this month, but still low.

- Submitted by Tom Cordaro