

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
April 7, 2015

Members Participating: Cabrina Attal, Tom Cordaro, Neil Gorman, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Victoria Kosirog, Mike Newell, Janene Parisi, Phil Samuels, Tom Zakosek, Barb Zdon
Members Absent: Marian Stricker

Council President Barb Zdon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room at SMMP, opening this with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2015 MEETING MINUTES:

Neil Gorman moved to approve the minutes from March 3, 2015, with Victoria Kosirog 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 BUSINESS:

Nominations Committee for At-Large Representatives: Victoria Kosirog reported that, due to a clerical error, the article with nomination form for At-Large Representative Candidate on Pastoral Council will have only run in the parish bulletin for two of the three planned Sundays [on 4/5 and 4/12 but not on 3/28]. Council's general opinion was that this single week's omission would not have any negative effect on the overall nomination process. Victoria Kosirog and Phil Samuels are co-chairing the nomination process for At-Large Council Membership on Council, following the planned timetable.

Council Task Reassignment: Council continued its discussion from last month about the reassignment of special tasks traditionally given to the two first-year and two second-year At-Large Council Representatives.

Barb Zdon made the following proposals, which the Council accepted:

1. That the first-year At-Large Members will be responsible for the Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, and the second-year At-Large Members will be responsible for the nomination process for new At-Large Members;
2. That these two groups will head up the respective committees (Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Nominations), with an understanding that the entire Pastoral Council will help with all of these duties;
3. That Council will revisit these proposals again in two years.

Council Representation -- Term Length: Council discussed the 2014-15 Council's unique composition, consisting of five new members and only four experienced members, in addition to Fr. Paul and Tom Cordaro. It was duly noted that Administration Commission still lacks an attending representative on the 2014-15 [resulting in a vacant fourth Commission Representative position]. Due to a coincidence with a prior early resignation and other factors, there was a turnover of three Commission Representative positions [for CEC, CSC, and CWC] rather than just one, occurring in June 2014. Tom

Cordaro had especially noted how collective memory is not only important but invaluable among Council members, still lacking in half of this year's Council. Tonight's ideas included:

- Staggering the term length of representation among the existing new Commission Representatives for one-, two-, and three-year terms, as selected by the current representatives [in order to only have one Commission Representative rotating off Council per year during the next few years until Representative turnover is fully corrected];
- Creating a new plan for Commission Representative term length
- Keeping the current term length as unchanged .

Council will continue to discern about term length representation and will resume its discussion about this at next month's meeting.

Calendar Planning for 2015-16: Having already consulted with Staff, Tom Cordaro requested that Council review some possible dates to assist with scheduling several upcoming events. The dates selected include the following:

- Fall Parish Leadership Gathering – 8/22/15 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)
- Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – 1/16/16
- Winter Parish Leadership Gathering – 2/06/16 [if not a conflicting date with the Women's CRHP Retreat Weekend]

It was also noted that all new Council candidates be informed about these important dates in advance.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE 2015-17 PARISH THEME AND PREAMBLE:

Council and Parish Staff Leadership approved the final wording of the new two-year Parish Missional Directives at their respective meetings last month. Council confirmed these directives tonight as follows:

Neil Gorman motioned, Phil Samuels seconded, and Council approved the Parish Missional Directives to be implemented for 2015-17.

Following this, Council reviewed the draft wording of the Parish Theme and Preamble for 2015-17, which the Parish Leadership Staff will also review at their upcoming meeting on 4/18/15. Tom Cordaro will send information to Council by e-mail about any additional changes made to these by Staff. He thanked Neil Gorman, Barb Zdon, Phil Samuels, and Sr. Madelyn Gould for their sub-committee efforts in developing the draft of the new Parish Theme and Preamble.

Tom Cordaro will meet during the summer with Dan Lawler (Director of Youth Ministry) and Sue Davey (Director of Religious Education for K-Grade 5) in order to help incorporate the new Parish Theme and Missional Directives into their curriculum. The planning committee for Adult Morning Enrichment will also be incorporating the new Parish Theme and Missional Directives into their program offerings for 2015-17.

The kick-off for the new Parish Theme will take place during the Parish Picnic weekend (9/12/15- 9/13/15), along with its incorporation into the Sunday liturgy. Bulletin articles and banners are also planned for this.

PARISH CONVOCATION: Council discussed holding its second Parish Convocation [the first one having been held on 10/01/13]. This would be open to all parishioners but would especially focus on participation by the parish's Direction Setters. Council is considering two possible dates for this, including 9/23/15 and 9/30/15. Tom Cordaro will reserve both of these possible dates on the parish calendar, with Council to finalize plans shortly. In addition, a Council representative will contact Ray Schulte from St. Raphael Parish about his additional Convocation planning ideas, as offered to the Parish Leadership Gathering held in February 2015.

Neil Gorman, Mike Newell, and Cabrina Attal volunteered to head up the new Convocation. Neil expressed interest in having the Convocation videotaped and posted online as a YouTube video.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [No report received].

The Administration Commission will hold its next meeting on 4/29/15.

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

Tom Zakosek, CWC Representative, provided additional information about the pewter Communion vessels, which CWC Members Barb Ryan and Mary Lou Krauss are requesting for purchase. These would serve as replacements for the Waterford crystal set currently used for special occasion liturgies. [The Waterford crystal set was purchased to commemorate SMMP's 15th anniversary, with only six cups still remaining due to breakage and chipping]. Due to their weight and shape, the crystal cups are reportedly difficult for the Eucharistic ministers to hold and wipe, and the crystal bowls are very heavy. According to Tom, the pewter set is approximately \$3,600 and is food-safe and lead-free [being 92% tin, 6% antimony, and 2% copper]. Although the pewter set might be purchased with memorial donations, Neil Gorman also stated that the Men's Club might discuss and approve their purchase at their next meeting.

Barb Zdon reminded the Commissions to follow the Principle of Subsidiarity in their decision-making and funding decisions, also applicable to the CWC in their efforts to replace the Communion vessels.

Christian Education (CEC): [CEC Ministry Reports for March 2015 was electronically sent in advance by Janene Parisi, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Janene Parisi, CEC Representative, explained that "LOW" refers to "Liturgy of the Word" volunteers [see Pre-K-Grade 5 report]; and that interviews for the Confirmation candidates are currently under way, with anticipated completion by the end of the month

[see Youth Ministry report]. Janene also noted that the recent presentation by Terry Nelson-Johnson on "Running the Paschal Mystery" was "spectacular." Sr. Madelyn Gould will be meeting with Al Gustafson for next year's retreat planning [see Adult Faith Formation report].

Council expressed some safety concerns raised at the recent Easter Vigil Mass about adult immersion baptisms within the slippery brick baptismal font, along with the surrounding tile floor also becoming very slippery when wet. It was also noted that the catechumens' white robes become very heavy when wet.

Barb Zdon reported that she had sent a card from Pastoral Council to Fr. Jonathan Foster, OFM, for his retirement from full-time ministry.

Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – April 7, 2015* was electronically sent in advance by Cabrina Attal, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Cabrina Attal, CSC Representative, reported that the Boys Scout have now successfully purchased a second supply trailer and are in the process of applying graphics and purchasing a lock for it. The Knights of Columbus have planned a very busy spring schedule of service to the parish and community, including helping with the Parish Blood Drive (5/02/15) and Parish Charity Walk to benefit Loaves & Fishes (5/30/15).

Following this, Council took a break from 8:00-8:10 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Barb Zdon.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:

Stewardship Committee – Contribution Envelope Mailings: Council discussed creating a new policy to eliminate mailing contribution envelope packets to registered parishioner households which have not monetarily contributed anything on record to the parish for the past one or two years. Fr. Paul noted that "the mailing of envelopes does not evangelize." He also stated that households need to be registered as parishioners in order to be "married or buried" and for their children to participate in the Religious Education Program. Some of the households which have registered children for Religious Education classes might not otherwise support the parish or attend Mass.

Council recommended that a letter be sent to these non-contributing households, stating that, while they are still valued as members of SMMP, envelopes will no longer be sent to them, as both an environmental and cost-saving effort. The letter should also state that contribution envelope mailings can be resumed upon request. In addition, recipients who no longer wish to be members of SMMP should be requested to notify the Parish Office about this. Lastly, the letter should also contain information about the current Mass schedule and parish website.

Tom Cordaro will find out about the parish's upcoming one-year contract-signing deadline [possibly 6/30/15] with the company which prints and mails contribution envelopes. He will inquire about what price reductions might be available for fewer envelopes and their mailing, also notifying Council about this.

Council will continue its discussion about this at next month's meeting.

Stewardship Presentation: Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs Neil Gorman and Phil Samuels gave their planned talk to Council, which they will also be making with portable microphones at all of the weekend Masses following the homily on 4/11 and 4/12. They will encourage consistent automated giving by ParishPay sign-up, along with increased giving. Each Council Member is asked to assist before and after two of the weekend Masses with answering questions, promoting ParishPay sign-up, and providing commitment cards. Two display easels, a table, and a slotted box [for commitment card returns] will be set up for this. Neil and Phil have previously presented their talk to Fr. Paul and to two other groups.

Council provided feedback to Neil and Phil about their presentation, which was very well received. Fr. Paul thanked Neil and Phil for heading up this initiative, especially in light of the large capital expenses coming up for the aging parish facilities.

OTHER: Fr. Paul reported that he will be traveling out of the country for the next four weeks but that he plans to be back for the next Council meeting. Council extended many good wishes to him for his travels.

FINAL "WHIP" AROUND: Comments included:

- "I'm excited for this coming weekend."
- "I've known the new Bible study facilitator [Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ] for 50 years through my family, and she is great!"
- "Very good meeting—an excellent job!"
- "Impressed with tonight's meeting."
- "Great job – am excited about the stewardship presentation."
- "Great job tonight, Barb!"
- "I'm very happy and proud of both of you, Neil and Phil."
- "Great meeting – great efforts!"
- "All of you will remain in my prayers."
- "Thanks for your support, as you give to others. The Spirit is working here, and we'll get results."

CLOSING: Barb Zdon offered a closing prayer.

Following this, the meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in the Upper Room at St. Margaret Mary Parish on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m.

May Opening/Closing Prayer: Mike Newell

May Refreshments: Mike Newell

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

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CEC Ministry Reports for March 2015

PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey

The third and final Parent Sacrament Retreat scheduled for February 1st was cancelled due to snow. It has been re-scheduled for April 19th. Approximately 50 children attended the First Communion retreat on March 7. The parent/child Bread Services on March 10th and 11th were well attended. Father Paul will be visited all of the classes preparing for the sacrament. On April 15th there will be a special song practice at 5:00 for children attending ASCA or are involved in home study.

The 5th graders presented the Stations of the Cross to all of the classes.

Maria Morgan agreed to coordinate the Good Friday children's service on April 3rd. Invitations have gone out to all 4th and 5th graders asking them to be part of the Passion Play at the service.

JoAnn Jeffries has graciously offered to host a dinner for the LOW volunteers on Wednesday April 22nd.

The last week of Religious Education begins on Monday, April 27th. Registration information will be mailed in early April.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

We hosted our second Coaching for Character speaker on March 1st. Amy Van Eekeren is a Benet boys volleyball coach and a Catholic parent. She spoke about how her beliefs and practices are woven through her vocation of coaching young people. We had 16 youth and adults attend the presentation.

On March 20th, a group of junior high and high school teens and adults volunteered at Feed My Starving Children. We had 40 people volunteer with us.

Our Junior High youth hosted their rendition of the Stations of the Cross prayer service. They practiced for several weeks and shared a very moving presentation on the

passion. This was organized by the Curran family again this year who did an amazing job!

We have been holding Confirmation interviews for the last few weeks and will be finishing by the end of the month.

Adult Faith Formation: Sr. Madelyn Gould

Bible Study: Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ- our Bible Study leader for 2015-16-- has submitted suggested courses of study for the participants to choose from. On March 15th I met with the small group leaders. We decided to focus on the gospel of Luke and/or Mark with a special highlight on the Passion of Jesus and the role of Angels in Scripture. To date Sr. Marianne has not notified me of her final choice.

Book Study: March book: *Personal Reflections of Joan of Arc* by Mark Twain.

Business Breakfast: Peggy Leyden was our speaker on March 21st. Topic: The Power of Encouragement. While there were only 18 present, I received grand reviews of Peggy's enthusiastic and inclusive presentation.

Evening Enrichment: Terry Nelson-Johnson's presentation on "Running the Paschal Mystery" (7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 was outstanding. 35 were in attendance for this very reflective evening. On April 29th a panel of parishioners will speak. Topic: 'Seeking Silence in a 24/7 World.'

Morning Enrichment: The presentation on March 11th – "Sounds of Silence – Hearing God in a Noisy World" was enjoyed by 35 people. We received high marks for the content and format. An additional panel will speak on April 22 on the topic of "Relevant or Relics: How Can We Relate to the Saints?" I am presently preparing this presentation and have met with the panelists.

Retreats: Twenty-four men attended the preached retreat which took place March 6-8. At the conclusion of the retreat the fellows gave a monetary gift to Fr. Jonathan and oodles of thanks for his 28 yrs of retreats with SMM parishioners. On April 6th I will meet with Al Gustafson to discuss next year's retreat theme and conference titles.

Approximately 18 women are continuing with the CRHP process. It is heart-warming to hear how meaningful this program is to the women.

The Ignatian Retreat is going well with 13 participants. One person chose not to continue.

RCIA: Four men were brought into full membership in the Church at the Easter Vigil. All will be a real asset to our faith community, I believe. It was an exciting night for them, their relatives and friends and the team who had worked with them for 10 months. To date, no one has registered for next year's group.

Spiritual Direction: With the Ignatian Retreat, I have four additional directees that I am seeing each week.

Other: I helped plan the reception for Fr. Jonathan held March 22nd. I will offer the reflection on April 19th at the 9:00 Mass.

Mental Health and Wellness: Jen Curtin
Report Pending

All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan

Students collected clothing for the Hogar del Pobre orphanage in Celaya, Mexico.

The Jr. High students will perform the Godspell musical April 24 & 25

About 400 people attended the 10 Year School Anniversary Benefit and Gala in March. Bishop Siegel and Father Bill O'Shea and many school benefactors attended the event.

-- Submitted by Janene Parisi

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Christian Service Commission

Monthly Report to Parish Council

April 7, 2015

Bereavement: The Bereavement Committee met on March 18 and had 4 newly assigned cases. We also had a discussion as to whether we should continue with monthly meetings or go every other month. We are going to continue this conversation at our April meeting and get other feedback from Bereavement Ministers who were not present last night. Prayers were said for all those listed in the Book of Remembrance.

Blood Drive: Our next parish blood drive will be on Saturday, May 2nd. I have asked the Knights of Columbus if they would like to help with the blood drive, as I know they take part in blood drives in other area parishes. They have said they would be interested, so I will be speaking with them or meeting with them prior to the May blood drive to see what we can work out.

Boy Scouts: Scouts purchased a 2nd supply trailer but still need to apply graphics and purchase a lock. It will be parked next to the other trailer. Scout Pancake Breakfast (our only fundraiser!) is Sunday, May 31st, 8:30am-Noon at SMMP. We will be selling tickets after Masses in May and also at the door.

Charitable Contributions: No report this month

Daybreak Transitional Housing: We are in the process of approving a new client - a single mom who has one 2 year old son and is currently pregnant. The apartment is fully furnished but may need some tweaking given the fact that there will be young children to consider. The process has been complicated by the fact that the landlord does a criminal back ground check on all applicants who want to live in the building. We have a new substitute case manager from Catholic Charities who is filling in for our seriously ill case manager whom we are all praying for.

Funeral Ministry: No report this month

Knights of Columbus: The St Margaret Mary Knights of Columbus Council 16011 welcomed four new members at our meeting on Thursday, March 26th: Ben Espinos, Jim Simel, Bill TeVogt and Autredicia Taguba. We have several others who will become first degree members in April. The Knights have an ambitious spring schedule of supporting service activities within the parish and community:

4/3	K of C Stations of the Cross Aurora
4/19	Hospitality Sunday
4/23	Council Meeting
4/25-27	State Convention Itasca
4/26	Special Olympics North Central College
5/2	SMM Blood Drive
5/30	SMM Parish Walk

We hope the CSC and parish family feel our presence and our commitment to service.

Men's Club: Men's club meeting was March 17th. For some reason we celebrated with a corned beef dinner. 67 members were in attendance. Planning for Parish Family Pizza Event April 11th was reviewed, as was our April in Parish project. Presently we have 4 families who we will be helping. The largest project is the replacement of an entrance way ceiling which was damaged due to a large water leak. Our quest speaker was Mark Quinn, author who spoke to us about the election in Chicago and the long term prospects for the city.

Nursery: Here are the nursery numbers for March:

3/1/15	9am: 2 kids, 1 family; 10:45am: 4 kids, 3 families
3/8/15	9am: 3 kids, 2 families; 10:45am: 2 kids, 1 family
3/15/15	9am: 3 kids, 2 families; 10:45am: 4 kids, 3 families
3/22/15	9am: 3 kids, 2 families; 10:45am: 1 kid, 1 family
3/29/15	Numbers to come in April Report

A gradual toy wash was completed while babysitting for RE over about 3 weeks. Upcoming closures: Easter and Mothers Day. We are currently screening a new babysitter, Emma O'Shaunessy.

Pastoral Care: No news this month

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group: The response to our March parish social mission week was very good. We were able to collect 284 signed postcards supporting the Healthy Workplace Act which allows all workers to earn up to 7 paid sick days a year. Our next parish social mission week will coincide with the Feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ), June 7/8. Our theme will be "We Are the Body of Christ and Bread for the World." Our focus will be on protecting the funding for federal food assistance programs.

Ad Hoc Charity Walk Committee: The committee is continuing its planning for our May 30th charity walk to benefit Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. Our "tag line" will be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Check-in and on-site registration will begin at 9:00 am. The walk will begin at 10:00 am and the closing celebration will begin at 11:00 am. Registration and donations will be taken on-line and on paper forms. Cost of registration will be \$20/adult, \$10/child and \$40/family. The walk will begin and end at the church and will cover between 1.5 and 2.0 miles. Permits for the walk are in the process of approval. T-shirts will be given to all registered participants. Volunteers are being recruited, as well as businesses and groups to help underwrite the cost of the t-shirts. Senior High teens have been invited to submit designs for the t-shirt logo.

Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee: Baby Bottle for Life fund raiser wrap up: 400 baby bottles distributed, about 50% were returned, just over \$3,000 was donated to Woman's Choice Services. Report will be in the April 12 bulletin.

St. Vincent de Paul: We helped 6 individuals / families last month

- helped person with utilities in home while awaiting to be accepted into a retirement home
- person a little short on rent because of hours cut
- bought tires for a woman who is leaving the area to live with daughter
- worked with Naperville Cares on rent for person with 3 kids
- worked with Sts. Peter and Paul Parish with a man who is ill
- helped with car payment for someone who needed to get to work

September Club: On Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 2:00, 34 members enjoyed corned beef & cabbage at Quincy's Restaurant. Father Tom led us in prayer. Members were asked to remember those members who are ill in their prayers. March birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. In April we will meet in the Parish Center for a spring luncheon. Details will be in the upcoming bulletin.

Sharing Parish: Applications for tuition assistance for the 2015 - 2016 academic year have been sent out. They are due by April 30. Easter hams and gift cards are being collected for families in need at Sacred Heart, St. Nicholas, and SMMP. Tamale orders will be available for pick-up on Sunday, April 12. Father Paul has given permission to search for a new Sharing Parish Partner in the Joliet Diocese. *[Note from Cabrina: For background information on why we are looking for a new Sharing Parish partner,*

please see Martha's update in the September 2014 CSC report.] The Scholarship Fund Garage Sale will be June 26 and 27. Donations will be accepted starting June 20.

-- Submitted by *Cabrina Attal*
