

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 5, 2016

Members Present: Cabrina Attal, Tom Cordaro, Neil Gorman, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Victoria Kosirog, Mike Newell, Brian Pelz, Carl Van Dril, Don Wenig, Tom Zakosek
Members Absent: Janene Parisi, Jessica Schoder

Council President Mike Newell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. In Janene Parisi's absence, Tom Zakosek offered tonight's opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2015 MEETING MINUTES:

Neil Gorman motioned to approve the meeting minutes from December 1, 2015, with Cabrina Attal 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:

Mental Health Ministry: With Licensed Professional Counselor Jen Curtin stepping down from her Mental Health Ministry leadership role due to her mother's illness, Fr. Paul noted that this ministry is currently lacking both a ministry head, as well as a SMMP staff sponsor. Although Fr. Paul had spoken with Deacon Joe Ferrari about his willingness to become this ministry's staff sponsor, it might not necessarily be a good ministry "fit." Fr. Paul stated that this ministry needs to regroup, with the committee "going back to the drawing board."

Carl Van Dril has offered to help facilitate establishing next steps for this ministry group, with Tom Cordaro assisting. They will also talk with Janene Parisi, CEC Representative, about this.

South DuPage Deanery Meeting (1/12/16 – 7:30 p.m.): Mike Newell was contacted by the South DuPage Deanery, requesting SMMP's participation at the upcoming parish cluster meeting on 1/12/16 (7:30 p.m.) at Notre Dame Parish, Clarendon Hills. According to the meeting agenda, it will focus on learning about each parish's evangelization efforts, with findings to be reported back to Bishop Conlon. Council felt that SMMP seems to be "very much on target" about evangelization, with its current parish theme, missional directives, and the small faith-sharing groups centered around the parish theme. Neil Gorman will represent SMMP at the Deanery Meeting and will also bring along some copies of SMMP's *Hearts on Fire!* reflection books, which SMMP's faith-sharing groups are currently using. Additional preparatory ideas for this should also be submitted to Neil prior to the 1/12/16 meeting.

PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER (1/16/16): Having already met last week to continue planning, Appreciation Dinner Chairs Carl Van Dril and Don Wenig provided updates and discussed further plans with Council for this event. The event will

use a “thank you” theme, and Carl has already ordered large theme posters to be strategically placed with the decorations for this. Music will again be provided by many of the parish musicians, performing with *Off the Rails*. At this year’s Appreciation dinner, two Council Members – Brian Pelz and Carl Van Dril – will be among the talented parish musicians who will be performing with *Off the Rails*. According to Tom Cordaro, the Parish Office has received 134 attendance confirmations as of today, with an attendance goal of 200. Tom confirmed that an electronic invitation was also sent out earlier today to 600 parishioners through Constant Contact and that electronic invitations were previously sent to the various ministry groups. Dinner sign-up information appeared in the recent weekly parish bulletins. Victoria Kosirog will use the attendance information spreadsheet in order to contact dinner attendees who have optionally offered to provide appetizers or desserts, and she will coordinate this for the dinner event. The Steury’s will make the nametags.

Carl confirmed that Angeli’s-Naperville will cater the meal and will do the buffet table set-up and replenishing – the dinner buffet will be served at 7:00 p.m. The menu will include the following: Bruschetta; House Salad; Chicken Margarita; Rigatoni Vodka Cream; Mostaccioli Marinara; bread; butter; and Parmesan cheese. The parish’s non-disposable dinnerware and disposable beverage glasses will be used, and cloth tablecloths will be rented. Additional youth help is still needed for table busing and coat check, although Youth Ministry Director Dan Lawler has reported there only being a slim interest generated so far. Tom Cordaro will send out a request to the Commissions for new photos to be added to the parish activity slideshow, which will be shown on a continuous loop on a flat screen monitor throughout the evening event. Council President Mike Newell will offer the dinner welcome and act as emcee, with Fr. Paul offering prayer before the meal.

Council reviewed and discussed their assignments for this dinner event, for which a new area set-up plan (as created by Carl Van Dril) will be used. Set-up will begin on 1/15/16 at 6:30 p.m., with Council scheduled to report again on 1/16/16 at 5 p.m. As Hospitality Sunday is scheduled for the following day after the Masses, complete tear-down of the chairs and tables would not be needed on Saturday night.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE: Due to Jessica Schoder’s absence, there was no report.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [No report received in advance].

According to Neil Gorman, the Commission has not yet scheduled its next meeting. It is currently obtaining proposals from electrical contractors for new church parking lot lighting fixtures and is awaiting receipt shortly of a second proposal. The new lighting fixtures should be more energy efficient and provide better reflector shields.

Neil expressed his thanks for the preliminary parish budget reports sent to Council by Finance Committee Sue Schroeder in preparation and review for the 1/21/16 Finance Committee meeting. He stated that this was the “best” and “hugely improved” parish budget information that he has received from the Finance Committee in his three years serving on Council. Any interested Council Member is invited to attend the 1/21/16 (7:30 p.m.) Finance Committee meeting and is requested to confirm attendance with Sue Schroeder in advance. The Finance Committee will begin its in-depth financial discussions for the 2016/17 parish budget preparation on 1/21/16. Although Neil will be unable to attend, Tom Zakosek and Don Wenig are currently planning to be there.

Christian Worship (CWC): [*Christian Worship Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – January 2016* was electronically sent in advance by Brian Pelz, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, stated that the By-law Amendment Review Meeting is scheduled for later this month. The Advent-Christmas liturgical season will be assessed, and the Lent-Easter liturgical season’s preparation will begin in February.

Christian Education (CEC): [*CEC Ministry Reports for January 2016* were electronically sent in advance by Janene Parisi, a copy of which is shown hereto].

In CEC Chair Janene Parisi’s absence, there was no additional discussion, and there were no questions posed pertaining to the CEC report.

Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – January 5, 2016* was electronically sent in advance by Cabrina Attal, an updated copy of which is shown hereto].

Cabrina Attal, CSC Representative, provided information about the three ministry groups, whose summaries were not included in the original January CSC report sent prior to tonight’s meeting. However, Cabrina will send out an updated January 2016 report to Council shortly, containing these three additions. *The updated report included with the January Council Minutes contain these three additional ministry group reports.*

Following this, Council took a break from 7:45-8:00 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Tom Zakosek. Tom was thanked for the refreshments.

PARISH LEADERSHIP WINTER GATHERING (2/06/16): Tom Cordaro reviewed plans for the Winter Parish Leadership Gathering, to be held at SMMP on 2/06/16 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Due to SMMP’s now being on a three-year cycle (rather than two-year cycle) with its parish theme and missional directives, Tom noted that Parish Leadership will be entering “new territory” with this longer cycle. New challenges will be posed to Parish Leadership to plan ways to deepen and widen the parish theme and missional directives, along with determining additional means of feedback

Fr. Paul noted that he would not require attendance of every Leadership Staff Member at this, with hopes that every attendee will be an engaged and contributing participant.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Nominations Committee: Victoria Kosirog provided copies of the planned 2016 Timeline for Parish Council At-Large Member Recruitment and reviewed the upcoming schedule. She especially noted the planned meeting dates on 4/20/16 (Candidate Orientation) and 5/25/16 (Discernment), also inviting Council Members to attend one or both of these. The nomination forms for At-Large Council Members will run in the parish bulletin starting on 3/26/16. According to Victoria, she already has names of four definite candidates and one “maybe” candidate for the two At-Large Member positions (with three-year terms), along with the name of one youth representative candidate for the one Youth Representative position (with a one-year term). Victoria stated that she is very excited about the current candidates, who also provide “a good mix.”

There was some discussion tonight about whether or not former Council Members could serve again on Council at a later date, beyond serving on no more than two consecutive three-year terms. Although Fr. Paul noted that, while there is no “unwritten rule” about this, he felt that it would be a better practice to encourage others (rather than having “repeats”) from the parish to experience these leadership roles.

The search for Cabrina’s replacement as CSC Representative will continue within the Service Commission. Council discussed whether Cabrina’s replacement should serve on Council for a single year (thereby completing Cabrina’s three-year representative term, being vacated one year early) or begin a new three-year term. Council confirmed that it would like Cabrina’s replacement to begin serving a new three-year term, noting the importance of better staggering Council members’ rotation off from Council.

Communications Committee: According to Victoria, the submission deadline for the new Parish Ministry Handbook is 1/22/16. This handbook will also include e-mail contact addresses for various ministries and committees, with contact people being linked with a descriptive parish ministry e-mail address, e.g. altarservers@smmp.com and funerallunches@smmp.com . Victoria still needs the CWC contact names with corresponding parish ministry e-mail address listings by 1/07/16 from Brian Pelz, while CSC contacts and their corresponding parish e-mail addresses are all set.

Victoria is still trying to learn through Target Corporate Headquarters about where to purchase a moveable table (for possible use as an information table in the church Narthex or library entrance) like the “sample tasting tables” used in Target stores. This “right sized” wheeled table has a bow-shaped counter with a single shelf underneath.

Carl Van Dril has recently talked with Youth Ministry Director Dan Lawler about communication strategies being used with the parish youth. Dan will be assisting Carl with some set-up help for a communications survey to be used within the parish, its stakeholders, and supporting organizations. Carl will also be meeting with the Parish

Web Committee on 1/06/16. According to Carl, there seems to be some excitement being generated about this parish communication review of current needs and best practices.

OTHER:

Feedback from Parishioners: Council thanked Tom Cordaro for the feedback summary, which he compiled from the Fall 2015 faith-sharing small groups. It was noted that there is a wide and mixed range of emotions being generated by “evangelization,” with its previously not being frequently discussed by Catholics. In addition, the concept of having a personal relationship with Jesus is starting to open minds and hearts. With the diversity seen in this feedback, Parish Leadership feels that SMMP is on the right track in responding to God’s calling to our parish – it is also on the same track to which Pope Francis is calling globally.

Sign-up for the four-session faith-sharing small groups will again be offered in January, with registration information currently appearing in the parish bulletin. Fr. Paul’s group will meet on Monday nights; Carl Van Dril’s group will meet on Tuesday nights; and Tom Cordaro’s group will meet on Thursday nights at SMMP. The same *Hearts on Fire!* reflection books, which were used by the Fall 2015 faith-sharing groups, will be used again in January.

There was also some follow-up discussion about the start-up of small Christian communities. Neil also shared ideas about how some small groups have collectively prayed for their neighbors and neighborhood.

FINAL ‘WHIP’ AROUND: Comments included:

- “Very good, insightful meeting.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Thanks for your help on the [Appreciation] Dinner.”
- “Too many men [working on the Dinner]!”
- “Typical meeting – very efficient.”
- “Good meeting.”
- “Good communication.”
- “Very efficient.”

CLOSING: Tom Zakosek offered a closing prayer. Following this, the meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd at St. Margaret Mary Parish, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room.

Opening/Closing Prayer (February) – Janene Parisi
Refreshments (February) – Janene Parisi

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

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**Christian Worship Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
January 2016**

No CWC Meeting held in December 2015

Open Items:

- CWC By-Laws amendments will be revised, reviewed and voted on in January 2016.
- Review software and process used for scheduling EM, Altar Server, Lector and Greeter schedules.
- Review and improve process with establishing Gift Bearers
 - Brian to ask the Parish Council members to sign up to be gift bearers
- Tables in Narthex. Violations of “no table in narthex” policy follow up.
 - There is a policy of no tables in the narthex, but recently there have been tables in the narthex. Ken will address this with the staff at the next staff meeting. Brian will mention it at Parish Council.
- SMMP Ministry Handbook updates: WIP

Altar Servers: Nothing to report

Art & Environment: Nothing to report

Baptism Assistants: Nothing to report

Bread Bakers: Nothing to report

Eucharistic Ministers: Nothing to report

Greeters: Nothing to report

Lectors: Nothing to report

Linen Launderers: Nothing to report

Liturgy Development: Nothing to report

Music: Nothing to report

Sacristans: Nothing to report

-- Submitted by Brian Pelz

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CEC Ministry Reports For January 2016

Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould

BIBLE STUDY: Second semester will resume on January 5, 2016. New members are welcome.

BOOK STUDY: On Dec. 13th the Book Study participants focused on “Flannery O’Connor: Fiction Fired by Faith” by Angela O’Donnell. During Lent, we will encourage parishioners to read JESUS A PILGRIMAGE by James Martin. We will not have books available in our office since paperback copies will be available at the beginning of February. At present, only hardcover copies are available (\$30.00). If people want to begin reading the book now, they can order it through Amazon. To date, 120 copies of RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS by Fr. Jonathan have been sold.

BUSINESS BREAKFAST: John Rinehimer from Community Christian Church in Montgomery will share his reflections on ‘The Lost Sheep/Coin’ (Lk. 25:1-10) on January 9th. 8:00-9:30 a.m. in the COR Center. All are invited.

EVENING ENRICHMENT: The Parish Mission will serve as Evening Enrichment for January. Dates: January 17-19. Speaker: Fr. Johnpaul Cafiero, OFM. Topic: “The Spiritual Journey: Reflections from The Wizard of Oz.” To date the committee has had five planning sessions to address the many needs for this event.

MORNING ENRICHMENT: Sr. Sallie Latkovich spoke about “What Is Spirituality Anyway?” on Dec. 9th. Near fifty parishioners joined us for this event. Terry Nelson-Johnson will be with us on Jan. 6th to speak about “Moments of Grace: Stoking the Embers of Faith.” Hope to see you at 9:15-11:15 a.m. in the COR center.

RETREATS: Women are presently recruiting for their January 30-31 retreat. To date, ten are on the roster. We’re hoping for an additional 10!

“Adventures in Contemplation’ led by Al Gustafson, is inspiring with 35 presently registered. As part of the experience, participants are reading INTIMACY WITH GOD by Thomas Keating.

Thirteen registered for the Advent At-Home retreat.

Publicity has begun on the Winter Weekend Retreats – Feb. 12-14 (women); Feb 26-28 (Men)

To help deepen the parish theme in the hearts of parishioners, we are focusing on “Encounter Jesus: Living Through Him, With Him, In Him.”

RCIA: We have three (2 women; 1 man) who are presently studying the Catholic faith. Guest speakers for December were Fr. Paul, Tom Cordaro and Rebecca Siar.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: I am seeing 20 directees monthly.

OTHER:

I organized and rehearsed with the students who participated in the Christmas procession on Christmas Eve.

On Nov. 30 I attended the diocesan workshop on new annulment procedures.

On Dec. 27 I will attend the wake of Bishop Joseph Imesch.

PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey

First Reconciliation was Dec 1st and 2nd. We had 3 to 4 priests available at each service so parents and family members were invited to share in the sacrament. Following each service, a reception was held in the Upper Room.

Our Square 1Art fundraiser generated approximately \$1500 in sales. Our profit was \$835. Our advent almsgiving for the Helen Keller Foundation generated \$240 which is substantially less than last year’s \$600 for Operation Smile. We believe that the lower amount may be due to competition with the sale of Square 1 art. We have decided to take a portion of our profit and match the funds collected for Helen Keller Foundation. The remaining profit for the fundraiser will be used to improve our electronic library.

During Advent we had a prayer service at the end of every class. This prayer service included a Jesse Tree. The 4th graders prepared the ornaments for the tree.

On December 8th we had a 4:00 Mass in celebration for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Classes for the week of December 21st were canceled. Instead there was a special prayer “Cookies and Carols” prayer service Monday, December 21st at 4:00. The program developed by Becca Siar was well attended.

Approximately 40 children participated in the Christmas Eve mass at 6:00.

First Communion registration will be mailed the first week of January. Our last Parent Sacrament retreat is Sunday, January 10th. The next First Communion blessing rite is January 9th and 10th (the sprinkling of water).

Our catechist open house for Lent preparations will be the week beginning January 30th.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

Once again this year, we collected toys for Operation Wrap which brings gifts to children in the Chicago area at hospitals and shelters. We hope that this outreach continues to bring joy to the kids who are in most need.

In place of our regular catechesis classes for the last week of December, we created Cookies and Carols which took place on Monday, December 21st at 4 pm. All grade levels were expected to come and families and other parishioners were invited. Becca coordinated this event for us and the response was very positive.

On January 10th, we will have our second Parent Sacrament Retreat for 1st Communion and Confirmation parents.

Our Deanery speaker for our high school group this year is Chris Padgett. Chris is a nationally recognized youth ministry speaker including the National Catholic Youth Conference, Chosen confirmation program, and Steubenville conferences. He will be here on Sunday, January 24th at 2 pm and at St. Thomas at 7:30 pm. All high school youth and their families will be invited.

Mental Health and Wellness: Jen Curtin

On December 9th, Jen Curtin sent the following email to Mary Oliphant, Barbara Burkhardt, Sister Madelyn and Janene Parisi:

Hello ladies,

I apologize in advance for being silent for so long. I recently received news that my mom's cancer is continuing to spread despite treatments. Though we have one last line of treatment (hope!) that we are beginning, the doctors do not believe she has even two years left.

This has been something we knew would eventually happen, but given the situation, the truth is that only God knows when her time will be here. I have spent a lot of time in deep thought and prayer asking for guidance about what to do with my life given this development.

I truly love the work I have been able to do at SMMP. I love the people. I love my parish. But I really feel that my time is best spent making memories with my family so that I will be as ready as I can be when God calls my mother home. I think it would be best to transition leadership of the ministry at this time. It makes sense (as Deacon Joe has been called upon to help and we are on the cusp of potentially changing what we offer in this area) for me to transition. I will always be connected to this group and I pray that it continues to flourish.

Thanks to each of you for your friendship and prayers during this time. I would like to share this with the larger group as well, but felt it best that I connect with each of you first.

With hopes for Peace in this holiday season,

Jennifer

Please keep Jen and her family in your thoughts. At this time, there is no word on who would be willing to lead this ministry.

All Saints Catholic Academy: Dr. Sandy Renehan

Catholic Education Week (CEW) starts on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Anne-Marie Cronin is working with Deacon Ken to coordinate the 10:45 mass on Sunday, January 31, 2016 to celebrate the Catholic education opportunities offered at SMMP.

As in the past, Sue Davey, Dan Lawler and Anne-Marie will recruit students from RE, Youth Ministry and All Saints Catholic Academy to do the readings, petitions and to bring up the gifts.

-- Submitted by Janene Parisi

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**Christian Service Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
January 5, 2016**

Bereavement: We had our annual Remembrance Mass on December 10. It was attended by approximately 150 family members. We had Quest (*editor note: the teen confirmation program is now called Chosen*) make the dove ornaments with their loved one's name on it to take home. Also this year, we (Deacon Terry) picked a family for a special Christmas treat based on the book "The 13th Gift." The family member had lost his young wife and had two children. Committee member Carrie Tilton arranged to drop off special items to the house for 13 days. We are going to continue this beautiful new tradition each year!

Blood Drive: No news this month.

Boy Scouts: No update

Charitable Contributions: A final six not-for-profit organizations were visited and reviewed by CCC members, resulting in \$10,650.00 being awarded to those organizations during the December meeting. Since the total fiscal year Committee allocation of \$42,150.00 was committed through this meeting, this will be the final CCC meeting of the fiscal year. From September 2015 through December 2015, this funding was provided to 19 different organizations falling into 9 different categories of service. This information will be more detailed later in the year for inclusion in the parish bulletin.

CCC officers for next fiscal year will remain the same as in the current year. The Committee will continue to review requests in the order in which they are received, as was the case this year. However, in order to be reviewed, requests must be complete, including appropriate financials. Input will be provided to the parish office to correct the current outdated website information about CCC.

Daybreak Transitional Housing: It was the first Christmas for our family. the Contemporary Choir adopted the family and did a great job! Good news! Our guest starts a job in January.

Funeral Ministry: There were no Funeral Luncheons in December. The committee served cookies and punch at the Mass of Remembrance on Thursday, December 10th for about 125 people.

Knights of Columbus: The men of St. Margaret Mary Council 16011 extend greetings to all parishioners for a wonderful conclusion to the Advent season and for a peaceful New Year! The Knights coordinated a "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest at All Saints Catholic Academy in December. Sixty-four third and fourth grade students participated with 5 winners selected to advance to district competition. Winners were awarded certificates along with a gift certificate to Anderson's Bookstore.

We celebrated a successful year by having our spouses join us for a Christmas party at Angeli's Restaurant on December 17. A wonderful time was had by all ... good food, spirits, and comrade ride in the packed private room. The "Keep Christ in Christmas" posters were judged and awards were presented to Dan Patt, Knight of the Year, and Chuck Schlabach, Honorary Knights of Columbus member.

The Council distributed donated gloves, mittens, hats, and thermal shirts to the PADS guests at St. Margaret Mary on Friday morning, December 18. Other parish activities the Knights participated in were the Sharing Parish meeting, as SMM hosted St. Andrew of Romeoville, and parish Hospitality Sunday.

Men's Club: We had 74 members attend our December meeting. several of our members assisted in the decorating of the church for Christmas. As usual we are involved with PADS.

Nursery: No update

Pastoral Care: No update

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group: We are beginning planning for our next parish social mission week which starts the weekend of January 23/24. The theme will be "Proclaim Liberty to the Captives" (taken from the Gospel reading that weekend) and the focus will be on criminal justice sentencing reform. **Earth Care:** We are currently offering Christmas lights recycling again this year. We will take old lights until January 15.

Christmas Giving Tree: We had another successful Giving Tree program this year. Overall our numbers were about 15% lower than last year but there was only about a 10% drop in donations. A special thank you to our committee volunteers and to the Men's Club for helping out on Drop Off Saturday.

Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee: The Mid- America March for Life will be held Sunday, January 17 in Chicago. The March will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Federal Plaza and proceed to the State of Illinois building.

The Naperville Christians for Life Interdenominational Prayer Service will be held Friday, January 22 at St. Thomas the Apostle church at 7:30pm. Fr. Paul will represent St. Margaret Mary at the Service. The Committee thanks Fr. Paul for his participation.

St. Vincent de Paul: The annual clothing drive will be after all Masses the weekend of January 9/10.

September Club: On Wednesday afternoon December 2, 2015, 35 members and guests gathered in the Parish Center for our Christmas celebration. Fr. Paul led us in prayer. Appetizers and desserts provided by members were enjoyed. We paused for a moment of prayer for member Agnes Braun recently deceased. All present were encouraged to remember those who are ill in their prayers. December birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. Our collection for the Giving Tree was \$181.00. Members exchanged grab bags followed by Christmas entertainment by John Kleise and the singing of Christmas carols.

There is no January meeting. Watch for the announcement in the weekly bulletin for our February meeting.

Sharing Parish: Following the presentation about the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe at SMMP on November 30, we attended the OLG Feast Day celebration at St. Andrew in Romeoville. The liturgy began with a dramatization of the OLG story, and included an Aztec dance at the offertory. After Mass everyone enjoyed a tamale dinner.

-- Submitted by Cabrina Attal
