

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
March 1, 2016

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

Members Absent: Janene Parisi

Council President Mike Newell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. Cabrina Attal led tonight's opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING MINUTES:

Neil Gorman motioned to approve the meeting minutes from February 2, 2016, with Mike Newell seconding, and the Council approving these. The minutes, along with Commission reports, will now be posted onto the Council's online web page.

PARISH BUDGET PREPARATION FOR FY 2016/17: Council reviewed their budget requests for FY 2016/17, prior to Mike Newell's submitting these to the Finance Committee. Included are the following line items: Parish Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (\$3100, as increased by \$200, due to a large parish attendance on 1/16/16); Ad Hoc Communications Committee (\$800 for this recently formed committee); and Misc. (\$200).

The Finance Committee will meet on 4/20/16, reviewing all of the Commissions' budget requests. Any Council members who are interested in attending this meeting should notify Sue Schroeder in advance by e-mail about their planned attendance.

PARISH LEADERSHIP WINTER GATHERING (2/06/16): Tom Cordaro led a short debriefing discussion tonight about the recent Parish Leadership Gathering, which was held on 2/06/16. Shortly after the Gathering, Tom had compiled and sent out a summary of notes from the Gathering, which had covered the following topics:

- Reviewing Our End of the Year Report
- Gathering Additional Information Needed for a More Thorough Evaluation
- Identifying What our Parishioners Need to More Fully Live Out Our Parish Calling
- Determining Methods for Getting the Information We Need
- Discerning What It Means to "Go Deeper?" [Re: Parish Theme & Missional Directives]
- Discerning What It Means to "Go Wider?" [Re: Parish Theme & Missional Directives]
- Forming an Ad Hoc Evaluation & Survey Committee

At tonight's meeting, it was noted that the recent Leadership Gathering was "great and very well organized." As there were many issues raised at the Gathering, a new Ad Hoc Evaluation & Survey Committee was formed to collect and analyze data prior to the next Leadership Community Gathering (in August 2016). Some of the new committee's work will also include "whittling down" many of the issues raised. The members of this Ad Hoc Evaluation & Survey Committee include: Carl Van Dril, Don Wenig, Brian Pelz, Victoria Kosirog, Mike Newell, and Tom Cordaro. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet on 3/08/16.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Administration: [Agenda – St. Margaret Mary Finance Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 7:30 p.m. was electronically submitted in advance by Mike Prus, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Fr. Paul reported that the Diocese signed the contract for the two new replacement Air Handler Units [for SMMP's Parish Center/Kitchen and Parish Center Classrooms]. In addition, the new parking lot lights are now on order. Initially, the lighting fixtures in only one of the two parking lots will be replaced, in order to better determine the overall brightness of light produced by these.

Neil Gorman explained that the Men's Club is audited annually by a CPA, who is either a Council or Finance Committee member. It is also audited once every 5 years by the Diocese. The Men's Club maintains its financial records and pays bills with Quicken software.

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

Brian Pelz, CWC Representative, reported that the CWC is very busy with liturgical preparations for the Triduum and Easter. They will meet again in May to review, revise, and vote on new by-laws and amendments.

Council shared some wonderful feedback received about the recent Lenten Taizé service (2/21/16), which numerous visitors had also attended at SMMP. It was noted that SMMP's Taizé experience is very different than those offered at other neighboring churches and that its description in the parish bulletin was very helpful.

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

Due to CEC Representative Janene Parisi's absence tonight, discussion about issues and concerns received about SMMP's Confirmation Program will be postponed until next month's meeting. Fr. Paul noted that there are two major issues being raised about

SMMP's Confirmation Preparation Program, including: home-based gatherings vs. gatherings at SMMP; and balancing large group activities with small, more intimate meetings whenever they occur. Due to the complexities with these issues raised, a more complete study is needed.

Christian Service (CSC): [*Christian Service Commission Monthly Report to Parish Council – March 1, 2016* was electronically submitted in advance by Cabrina Attal, a copy of which is shown hereto].

Cabrina Attal, CSC Representative, announced that Carrie Tilton will replace her as new CSC Representative on Council, starting in 2016-17. Carrie has previously headed the Parish Nursery and has been actively involved as a Catechist and as a Bereavement Committee member. Cabrina will be ending her three-year term as CSC Representative one year early due to upcoming out-of-state relocation. To assist Cabrina, Tom Cordaro will put together and submit the CSC budget requests to the Finance Committee shortly.

According to Cabrina, the CSC's evening formation meeting on 2/11/16, *Building Strong Parish Committees: Recruiting, Planning Effective Meetings, and Providing Leadership Training*, contained excellent guidelines for leadership succession turnover. Although this presentation by Tom Cordaro was open to the entire parish, it unfortunately only had eight attendees (including a couple of Council members). It was noted that there are several service committees in our parish which have been chaired by the same people for the past 20 years.

Boy Scout Troop 507 requests possible Eagle Scout project ideas for some of their older scouts. According to Tom Cordaro, the CSC is organizing its second annual Community Charity Walk on 5/21/16. This year's Charity Walk will benefit Naperville CARES. The Boy Scouts will be helping with this.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT: Jessica Schoder, Youth Ministry Representative, provided many updates about Youth Ministry activities, including the following:

- \$300 was received in tips for the coat check at the Appreciation Dinner – this money will go to the Youth Ministry Program. Two Peer Minister volunteers helped with the coat check area. The coat check's new location in the Parish Office offered a larger area and provided more interaction between dinner attendees and the Peer Minister volunteers.
- Chris Padgett spoke to a standing room-only teen audience at SMMP [on 1/24/16 on "Don't Stop Believing"].
- Sarah Swafford will speak to high school ladies only at SMMP on 4/16/16 [on "Perfectionism and Competition"]. Tickets are \$10 (for the presentation only) and \$15 (for brunch and the presentation). This event is open to other high school ladies outside of SMMP and is being advertised on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Youth Ministry will participate in the evening Good Friday liturgy.

- “Theology of the Body” will be offered to junior high students at SMMP on 3/20/16 and will include a panel consisting of 3 males and 3 females.
- The Sophomore Retreat was held two weeks ago.
- As many current Peer Leaders are high school seniors, strong sophomore candidates are sought to help replenish leadership in next year’s Peer Ministry Program.

The recent Jr. High “Warm-A-Heart” Benefit was very well-attended. It included a DJ and various games and other activities.

According to Tom Cordaro, 100 students from Naperville North High School’s Comparative Religions classes will meet at SMMP on 3/10/16 for an hour during the school day. Rebecca Siar, Deacon Ken Miles, and Tom Cordaro will speak with them during their visit.

INTERFAITH PEACE EVENT (4/03/16): Tom Cordaro noted that SMMP will host the West Suburban Faith-based Peace Coalition Gathering on 4/02/16 at 1:00 p.m., featuring His Holiness Dr. Vasanth Vijajji Maharaj. He is the 2015 Public Peace Prize Laureate in the Internationally-reputed Peacemaker category.

Following this, Council took a break from 7:50-8:05 p.m., enjoying refreshments provided by Cabrina Attal. Cabrina was thanked for these.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations Committee: Victoria Kosirog reported that the Pastoral Council Nomination Form for At-Large Representative candidates will appear in the parish bulletin in two weeks. Candidate orientation will be held on 4/20/16 and Discernment on 5/26/16. Council members are encouraged to attend one or both of these.

Jessica Schoder will encourage Youth Leaders to consider discerning for the Youth Representative position on Council for 2016-17. Council asked Jessica for her opinion on whether or not this should be filled by a high school student during junior or senior year.

Communications Committee: Carl Van Dril updated the flow chart diagram depicting the intended communication survey outreach. Plans also include contacting other faith communities about their communications needs and practices.

As of tonight’s date, 14 of the 40 targeted online surveys have been received. Carl credited Dan Lawler’s help with these, with surveys sent out via the ConstantContact survey engine. Carl reported that 15 staff interviews are completed, with good discussion and input. Within the next couple of weeks, the Committee will look for any common themes and problems being noted through these surveys and interviews.

As especially noted through recent staff interview requests, it is recommended that the Committee look at other faith communities' websites and deconstruct the best components noted. Carl provided an example of how his recently engaged daughter and fiancé found very little information about weddings on SMMP's website but found much more "user-friendly" information on other churches' websites.

FINAL "WHIP" AROUND: Comments included the following:

- "Good meeting" [as stated by 4 Council members].
- "Really smooth meeting tonight."
- "Short and sweet night."
- "Our first meeting that was so efficient and good through the very end."
- "Loved it."
- "A recommendation to read *Amish Grace*, which is a very powerful true story about forgiveness."

CLOSING: Jessica Schoder offered tonight's closing prayer. Following this, the meeting concluded at 8:23 p.m.

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

Opening/Closing Prayer (April) – Brian Pelz
Refreshments (April) – Brian Pelz

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary

.....

AGENDA
St. Margaret Mary
Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
7:30PM
Room: 8

- **Present: Helen, Mike, Sue, Laurette.**
- **Absent: Jim, Henry.**
- Opening Prayer and/or Finance-related Scripture reading – Sue

- Approval of January minutes
 - Minutes approved by affirmation
- Review of contributions /financials – Mike
 - As of 02/14/16 contributions are -.36% below budget but .01% ahead of last year. There were no major variances from budget in the December financials.
- Budget
 - Recap of PC Meeting
 - PC approved the proposed goals for the 2016-17 budget. The budget will be sent to the commissions by March 1st with a March 31st completion date.
 - The FC will review the budget at the April meeting for submission to the PC's May meeting.
 - The budget must be submitted to the diocese by June 1st.
 - Budget Assignments
 - Worship – Laurette, Brian Pelz
 - Service- Helen, Cabrina Attal
 - Adult RE – Henry, Sr. Madelyn
 - RE – Sue
 - Pre K – Jim
 - Justice – Sue, Tom Cordaro
 -
- Admin Committee News – Mike & Sue
 - PC HVAC
 - Parking Lots Lights
- Men's Club Audit
 - Laurette and Helen completed the audit and will produce a report for our records. The only recommendation would be to change the bylaws to reflect how checks are actually being signed.
- Parish Audit
 - Collections
 - 5:00PM - Henry
 - 7:30AM - Laurette
 - 9:00AM - Helen
 - 10:45AM – Sue or Jim
 - 12:30PM – Sue or Jim
 - Sue will contact Jim about which Mass he can do.

- Collection Count Audit – Sue will contact Henry about completing this task again.
- Payables – Sue will contact Jim about completing this portion of the audit.
- New business
- Next Meeting – March 16th, 2016
- Closing Prayer – Sue

Prayer next month - Laurette
 -- Submitted by Mike Prus

.....

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

No CWC Meeting held in February 2016

Open Items:

- CWC By-Laws amendments will be revised, reviewed and voted on in May 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.
 - **Update from Ken 3/1/2016:** I reported to the staff about the CWC consensus that this policy stay in force. When there are multiple things happening so the Library area is filled, Mike Prus will contact me to see whether things can be handled, but the first response is that the last group should find another date.

Youth Altar Servers: Nothing to report

Family 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:

- Glucose tablets have been placed in the Vesting Sacristy refrigerator in case someone is having low blood sugar.
- Scheduling manpower for Holy Week.

Lectors: Nothing to report

Linen Launderers: Nothing to report

Liturgy Development:

- Planning for the Triduum

Music:

- The TAIZE service was a huge success. Special thanks to all who helped make it a success (a thank you will follow in the bulletin)
- Preparing for the Triduum

Sacristans: Nothing to report

Submitted by Brian Pelz

CEC Ministry Reports For March 2016

Adult Education: Sr. Madelyn Gould

BIBLE STUDY: We have three more weeks of class. Attendance has been good. Sr. Marianne is willing to return for next year's study. Focus of study: TBD

BOOK STUDY: The book for February/March is JESUS A PILGRIMAGE by James Martin. The parishioners are encouraged to read this book for their Lenten Reading.

BUSINESS BREAKFAST: Pastor Glen Wagner inspired 30 participants on Feb. 20th. His topic: The Parable of the Dishonest Stewart (Lk. 16:1-13). All are invited to the March 19th Business Breakfast. Pastor John Gerike from Our Saviour's Lutheran will be the presenter. Topic: The Wedding Feast (Mt. 22:1-14)

EVENING ENRICHMENT: Fr Paul will give the presentation on March 16th. Topic: Holy Week: Walking Jesus' Journey in My Shoes

MORNING ENRICHMENT: Kate DeVries gave an excellent presentation on “Is the Kingdom of God Really at Hand.” Thirty were in attendance. David Schimmel will be our March speaker...Breaking Through the Illusions of Life.

RETREATS: Nineteen women attended the January 30-31 CRHP retreat. We had our first follow-up meeting on Feb. 21st...after Taizé. It looks like most will continue with the spiritual formation. Marcia Mackenbrock and Jennifer Nolan have discerned that they are called to facilitate this new group.

Twenty nine women registered for the Weekend Retreat in Mundelein led by Al Gustafson, Msgr. Lyle and Sr. Madelyn (Feb. 12-14). On Feb. 26-28 the retreat will be given for the men of SMM. Fifteen are registered. The theme of the retreat is “Encounter Christ: Living Through Him, With Him, In Him.”

“Adventures in Contemplation’ led by Al Gustafson, is inspiring with 35 presently registered. As part of the experience, participants are reading The Grace In Aging by Kathleen Dowling Singh.

RCIA: We have three (2 women; 1 man) who are presently preparing for membership in the Catholic faith. Fr. Paul gave a presentation on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pictures and prayer cards for these three are in the narthex. All are invited to the Easter Vigil and reception in their honor on March 26 at 8:00 p.m. We will begin a new group on April 6th.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: I am seeing 20 directees monthly.

OTHER:

-I attended Taizé on Feb. 21st. Moving!

-Also on Feb. 21st I attended a presentation at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Sr. Barbara Reid, OP spoke about “Reading the Scriptures with the Mind, Heart and Lips of Women.”

PreK–Grade 5: Sue Davey

Our Ash Wednesday Religious Ed./Youth Ministry Prayer Service with distribution of ashes was very well attended. The children did a great job with the readings. In the absence of Sue Davey (who is still recovering from knee surgery) Dan Lawler and Becca Siar coordinated this service.

The final 1st Communion Blessing Rite was the weekend of February 20/21. 23 parents have volunteered to help at the 1st Communion Retreat which is scheduled for March 5th. A planning meeting was held for the volunteers on Wednesday, February 24th. Becca Siar headed the Planning Meeting and will lead the Retreat.

14 children registered to have roles in the Feb 27th Children’s Mass . Debbie Linton, our parent volunteer who coordinates the Children’s Masses, became ill at the last minute. She sent her husband, Dave, who, along with help from Deacon Joe, did a great job as did the children who had parts.

Youth Ministry: Dan Lawler

Our second Warm-A-Heart Benefit was another big success. We had about 76 junior high youth in attendance and several parent volunteers. There was some great energy and participation with the young people, especially with the games and DJ. We also filled the Loaves and Fishes bins with food donations. We hope to continue to promote and grow this event in the future.

We partnered with Deacon Joe this year for a new event entitled "Got Forgiveness?" which explored the need for offering and accepting forgiveness. Deacon Joe and Becca gave a wonderful presentation followed by a prayer ritual for the participants. There were approximately 40 people there.

The Confirmation Retreat was led by an amazing group of Peer Ministers this year. The witness talks, large group activities, prayer services and small group discussion all seemed to go really well. This year, we added the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation and had 11 priests here to hear confessions. The participation for that was also very good.

Shamrock Shindig is a new event based on our previous St. Patrick's Day Dinner fundraisers. This year we are gearing our promotion and activities towards young adults including an Irish band, craft beer, and games (although all adults are welcome). The proceeds will support our youth summer service trips. This event is on March 11th from 7-11 pm in the Parish Center.

We will have a prayer service based on the Stations of the Cross presented by junior high youth on Monday, March 14th at 7:30 pm. We will be recruiting youth over the next few weeks with practices beginning on February 22nd at 8 pm. All parishioners are invited to attend!

We have added three new Junior High retreats this year for each grade level. The 6th and 7th grade retreats will be held on Saturday, March 19th from 11 am – 5 pm and facilitated by young adults trained by the diocese.

The theme of the 6th grade retreat is "YMI". This retreat looks at self esteem, their gifts and talents and being stewards of their life in the part they play in the Body of Christ.

The theme of the 7th grade retreat is "Plugged In". This retreat will tie our i-everything needs to our faith by being connected to the power source. Like our devices, we need to be turned on or we don't do much good. Sometimes it is tough to reach the power source, so who are the extension cords in their life, that plug you in to the power source.

Our 8th grade retreat is on Sunday, March 20th from 12:15 - 5:30 pm and will be focused on Theology of the Body for teens led by Mary Runger. As part of this unique learning experience students will view highly engaging videos with nationally recognized Chastity Education speakers, participate in transformative discussions about God's plan for love, life and relationships, and hear from an 'All Star' panel of teen mentors, committed to living chastity as a virtue.

We are also starting to promote our summer activities and trips with more information coming soon!

All Saints Catholic Academy: Anne-Marie Cronin

Principal Search Update: The field of candidates has been narrowed down to three who will move on to a second interview. All but one has had a second interview and the search committee is on target to hire a new principal by the end of March.

Lenten Project: As with past years, school families will support the 150 children in the Hogar del Pobre orphanage in Celaya, Mexico with almsgiving, prayer and sacrifice. The students will be praying for the children and each class will collect clothing for them. For most of the children at the orphanage, the clothing they receive from All Saints students will be the only new outfit they receive all year long. In past years, All Saints families have generously been able to contribute over 700 pieces of clothing during the 40 days of Lent.

Miscellaneous: Fourth grade students support the Military mission at St. Margaret Mary by writing letters to the troops.

Parents pray the rosary prior to the all-school Mass each Wednesday. The Mass is celebrated in the school gym at 8:15 a.m. and the Rosary prayer starts at 7:40. All are invited to attend.

-- Submitted by Janene Parisi

.....
**Christian Service Commission
Monthly Report to Parish Council
March 1, 2016**

NOTE FROM THE COMMISSION: COMMUNITY CHARITY WALK!

This year the CSC is organizing another community charity walk that will take place on Saturday, May 21st. Step off for the walk will be 10:00 am. Our parish will host this community event to benefit Naperville CARES (www.napervillecares.org) The costs will be the same as last year: \$20/individual and \$40/family. We will provide both on-line and paper registration options again starting April 15th. T-shirts will be provided as well.

Bereavement: There are no Bereavement committee events in February.

Blood Drive: No update

Boy Scouts: We continue to look for ways we can provide service to the parish. Our scouts need to earn service hours for rank advancement and perform large projects for Eagle rank. We would like to give back more to our chartering organization. We will look into helping with the May 21st charity walk. We could help with setup, stations, clean up, etc.

Charitable Contributions: All contributions have been distributed for this fiscal year.

Daybreak Transitional Housing: No update

Funeral Ministry: No update

Knights of Columbus: Our Council meeting was held on Thursday, February 25 with 22 in attendance. We had a guest speaker from the State K of C office, Jim Russell, who spoke about mentorship within the program.

The council represented St. Margaret Mary parish at a Vocations Workshop on Saturday, February 27 at St. Raymond Cathedral in Joliet. The author/speaker focused on her book, Hundredfold- A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry, providing strategies to encourage vocation discernment within our parishes. We will report to Fr. Paul and the Parish Council about the possibility of establishing a vocation ministry at SMM.

Our council supported the PADS effort again in February and attended the Forgiveness interactive meeting on the 18th. At our meeting last week, our District Representative presented us with the Star Council Award for service in 2015. We were pleased to accept such a prestigious award, very rarely bestowed upon a first year council.

Men's Club: On Feb 2nd we held a bingo night. Everyone had a great time playing bingo and talking with friends around them. On Wednesday evening some of our members are playing basketball at All Saints Catholic Academy. Our meeting this month was our annual Ladies Night. We had 56 members and 46 spouses present. Bill Cessna did an excellent job of entertaining us during our dinner, and again after our meeting concluded. Everyone enjoyed the piano music. During the meeting Ray Jeffries and Bob Hansen were honored with our Distinguished Service Award.

Nursery: No update

Pastoral Care: No update

Peace & Justice Advisory Working Group: We will soon begin planning for our last parish social mission weeks that will take place on May 28- June 3. The theme will be "We are the Body of Christ for the World." The advocacy focus is still to be determined.

Pro-L.I.F.E. Committee: No events are scheduled at the present time. There is a possibility that "Assisted Suicide" legislation may be introduced at an upcoming State of Illinois legislative session.

The Church's teaching on euthanasia is summarized in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as follows: *Section 2324 Intentional euthanasia, whatever its forms or motive, is murder. It is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator.*

St. Vincent de Paul: No update

September Club: On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 30 members enjoyed a delicious lunch at the House of Emperor. We opened with a prayer. Members were asked to remember those members who are ill in their prayers. January & February birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. In March we will meet at Quincy's. Details will be in the upcoming bulletin.

Sharing Parish: We are sponsoring a Social Security seminar on Wednesday, March 2, to inform people of changes in the Social Security law effective May 1, 2016, and actions they may be eligible to take before then to maximize their Social Security distribution.

The Garage Sale is scheduled for Friday, June 24, with a pre-sale for parishioners on Thursday night, June 23, and a reduced prices sale on Saturday, June 25.

-- *Submitted by Cabrina Attal*
