

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
November 6, 2018

Council Members Present: Jim Chitwood, Tom Cordaro, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Julie Lomax, Mary Oliphant, Brian Pelz, Dave Schwartz, Carrie Tilton, Chas Bellock, Joey Rose, Peggy Soeldner, Parishioner Mike Anderson

OPENING AND PRAYER: Tonight's meeting was held in the Room #17. Carrie supplied the prayer. Jim called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

APPROVAL OF OCT 2018 MEETING MINUTES: Chas made motion to approve October minutes, Dave seconded. Minutes approved.

POLARIZATION WITHIN SMMP from Dave Schwartz (and Jim Chitwood)

- Jim introduced the topic, and explained that multiple members of the parish were hearing feedback from parishioners that there was polarization within SMMP.
 - Jim asked Carrie to be the moderator
- Mike Anderson, the visiting parishioner, presented his views on polarization within our parish:
 - He believes that the role of the parish is to promote unity instead of polarization.
 - He called for a more balanced approach to the way our parish addresses current political and social issues, in such a way that focuses on the issue more than the politics behind the issue.
 - Mike pointed to what's written in the bulletin as an example of the kind of polarization he sees in our parish, and thinks any publication from SMMP should be neutral and contain both points of view.
 - As an example, Mike brought in an advertisement from a Catholic parish in Florida with a more conservative view on immigration.
- Tom explained that when he discusses immigration or any other current social or political issue, he gets his information from Catholic Social Teaching, and the Bishops.
- Fr. Paul noted that Tom's committee is an open committee, open to anyone who wants to be an active member.
- There was much discussion about this issue. At 7:44, Carrie suggested Council move to the next agenda item.
 - Jim suggested that the Council members pray on this and return to the issue next month.

ROLE OF PARISH COUNCIL IN COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT WORK from Fr. Paul Hottinger

- Fr. Paul wanted to emphasize that items that he puts on the Parish Council agenda are non-negotiable. He said that Jim puts together the agenda for the Council meetings, but Fr. Paul has the final say on what is included or not included on the agenda.

- If anyone has an issue with an agenda item, they should bring it up to him privately.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE from Chas Bellock (reports attached)

- The stewardship mailing has already been sent out. It includes information about stewardship with a response card.
- Giving is below budget, but collections are less than 1% different from last year. The auto-giving donors are down from 231 to 223.
 - Chas will discuss the issue of communication at the next stewardship committee meeting.

There was a short break for refreshments at 8:00pm. Reconvened at 8:10.

PEACE POLE PROJECT from Tom Cordaro (proposal attached)

- Tom noted that a member from a separate parish is willing to fund the addition of a peace pole to the church grounds.
- Jim wanted clarification regarding its durability. Tom clarified that this pole would be vinyl, not metal or wooden.
 - Tom said that he discussed the vinyl one with the Green Thumb Committee and they are okay with the vinyl.
- Jim suggested that perhaps a metal peace pole might be better. Tom said he will investigate the pricing difference between the metal and the vinyl.
- Mary asked whether there would be an explanation/plaque attached to it, but Tom suggested that perhaps an explanation be included in the bulletin. The beauty of the Peace Pole is that the message is supposed to be clear/self-explanatory.
- Tom is going to get pricing information for the different types of Peace Poles for discussion at the December meeting. Will be decided at December meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS (reports attached)

CSC from Carrie Tilton

- Remembrance Mass is on Dec. 13th at 7pm
- Next Charitable Contributions meeting is November 13th, but Fr. Paul is unable to attend.
 - Fr. Paul and Mary said that the committee should share the amounts of the contributions and their destination.
- The new Daybreak family has not asked for anything thus far.

CEC from Julie Lomax (no report included)

- Big Day of Service is November 17th.
- Thank you to the Men's Club for the donation to the Big Day of Service.

CWC from Brian Pelz

- Shout out to the greeters for taking care of the attendance numbers.
- Preparing for Advent and Christmas.

AD HOC COMMITTEE from Julie Lomax and Carrie Tilton

- Brian noted that the Eucharistic Minister and Altar Server lists need to be updated for schedules. Also need to discuss gift-bearer sign ups, and Baptisms.
- Wedding Services. Julie noted that Sister Madeline is looking for a new coordinator of sponsor couples.
- Comfort Care. The issue is that the coordinator is either not being called, or when they are there's not enough notice. It is a "funeral workflow issue," and Carrie would like to know the next step.
 - Carrie said that traditionally it has been the hope that the funeral home would inform families that SMMP offers a luncheon, but our discussions have led us to suggest that the parish office be the ones to inform the bereaved families of that service.
 - Fr. Paul noted that many volunteers seem unavailable for Saturday funerals, but Carrie noted that that's not necessarily true, so needs to be clarified.
- Sunday Nursery. They got a teen who can assist, and another parishioner who can volunteer. Still looking for a new coordinator and more babysitters.
- PADS needs more volunteers. They need to outline all the shifts available in the bulletin. Carrie will continue to follow up with them.
- Pastoral Care has a new leader, Paul O'Neill, Carrie will start including him in the reports.
- September Club is going strong, they're holding events. They have new leadership.
- Sharing Parish. Carrie and Fr. Paul noted that Sharing Parish is a "misnomer" that doesn't describe what they do.
 - Fr. Paul suggested that perhaps the group could be called the "scholarship program" because of what it does. Carrie will talk to Martha and clear it up.
- HR Commission. Dave said that the difficulty is finding the "talent" to run the commissions. The person finding the other people for these positions should be someone perhaps younger and with connections.
 - Julie suggested that perhaps an online volunteer component would be helpful.
- Admin rep. Carrie asked about adding an Admin representative back to Parish Council. Admin includes Finance Committee and Buildings and Grounds.
- Parish Directory. New directory revisions come in December. PC should contact the parishioners about updating their contact information (with email addresses).
 - Different methods for updating the directory were discussed, but Council decided to have a "ticket" included in the bulletin where parishioners can fill out their information and turn it into the church. The ticket will also include a link to the site for those who want to update their information electronically.
- Carrie and Tom discussed splitting the CSC into Parish Life (internal ministries) and Outreach (external ministries). If they go forward with this, they would add an extra meeting to focus on each section. They're discussing the impacts of this split on the future of the Commission.

- Parish Council is looking for ways to help revitalize the Pro-Life ministry. Possibly expand Pro-Life to regularly include more than abortion—maybe broadened to the Sanctity of Life.
 - Jim suggested that this might be a good agenda item for the next meeting, but Tom motioned to close this item and move forward with solutions (not making it an agenda item next month).

BUILDING ISSUES from Julie Lomax

- Julie noted many issues with the circulation system in the building and wanted to make sure that someone is working on it.
 - Fr. Paul noted that someone is working on it, but it will cost money. The next Admin meeting is to review and approve the costs/improvements.
- The RE office is looking at getting intercoms and adding locks to the RE classrooms.
 - Dave suggested that it might be more economical to add to the current phone system's intercom capabilities rather than add a new intercom system. Dave offered to meet with Dan Lawler and/or Sue Davey to discuss.
 - Jim suggested that boosting the Wi-Fi might be a cheaper option.
- CEC would like to ask parents to come in to the Parish Center for coffee and snacks during RE classes and start conversations/connections, but the RE leaders noted that the custodian staff may not be willing to set up for things like that. Julie noted that with no one here on Saturdays it's difficult to have set-up for events on Sunday.
 - No resolution was reached. Will come back to December meeting.

LEGION OF MARY from Carrie Tilton

- Carrie suggested moving it into the list of the SMMP ministries.
- Mary wanted more information about what the ministry does, to make sure it is a good representation of SMMP.
- Carrie suggested the head of the Legion could come to the December meeting.

APPRECIATION DINNER from Dave Schwartz and Chas Bellock

- Music, decoration, and caterer are set.

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND RECRUITMENT from Peggy Soeldner

- Moved to December meeting

WHAT WE ARE HEARING

- Chas = New member of Stewardship committee will be a welcome addition.
- Thank you cards—Joann Jeffries, Martha Rose
- Mary = appreciated that Sr. Madelyn continues to attend spirituality conferences; she continues to be a student of her own faith formation alongside us all.
- Dave = The Men's Club appreciates being appreciated.
- Joey = Good feedback from parishioners when the choir sat in the congregation
- Tom = appreciative of those that attended the solidarity event last weekend.
- Brian = Nice service (solidarity service)

- Peggy = Noticed a lot of nice posts on FB from SMMP
- Carrie = Mixed reviews on the new mass setting, particularly from the noon mass.
 - Heard good things about church environment.
 - Maybe offsite events could have carpools (don't need to administrate/coordinate, but maybe could suggest to parishioners as an option) to promote community and helpful when parking is limited.
- Julie = Teens at the noon mass aren't fans of the new mass setting. Also noted that other parishioners aren't fans either.

The Council ended with a closing prayer at 9:20 pm.