

**St. Margaret Mary Parish**  
**Minutes for Pastoral Council Meeting - October 11, 2022**

Present: Mike Anderson, Mary Kienstra, Barb Ryan, Bob Presnak, Susan Stonesifer, Anne Lysaught, Steve Novotny, Dan Lawler, Fr. Max Behna, Lise Nauman

Absent: Kathy O'Rourke

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00. Mary Kienstra led the opening prayer.

The minutes from September were presented and approved unanimously.

The new Recording Secretary, Anna Castillo, was introduced.

The overall goal of today's meeting was introducing topics and sharing ideas from the September staff and council meeting, with the intention of following up at future meetings.

**Pastor's report**

Staffing:

Eric Bryant has been hired as the new building manager.

We are recruiting another part-time secretary instead of 2 office assistants. Mary Sears will remain the part-time receptionist. Rochelle will remain the point person for new parishioners.

All Saints Catholic Academy:

We will increase the presence of All Saints Catholic Academy at the parish by having representatives from the school on a quarterly basis.

There was interest in inviting a parent from ASCA to come to one of the council meetings. Anne will contact a parent about this.

Upcoming Attorney General's report:

There was discussion about an upcoming report from the Illinois attorney general's office investigating historical cases of clerical abuse from the past in Illinois, and how to address it. Depending upon what is found in the report and any comments from the Diocese, the Council wants to be prepared to respond if the need arises.

Pastoral Council and Staff Meeting with Deacon Keith:

There was discussion about the first meeting with Deacon Keith about engagement and growth in the parish. The main topic was finding a new way to engage people in their faith amid the challenges of today. Other topics included discipleship, working with Deacon Keith, measuring fruits of engagement, and how engagement ultimately stems from an encounter with Christ.

The council is interested in meeting with parishes that implemented discipleship efforts many years ago and are thriving. The closest one is St. Patrick's in Yorkville.

"Know, Grow and Go" (what we do) was brought up as a possible theme for this year's parish mission.

Fr. Max talked about his vision for the pastoral council as a robust feedback group with a consultative vote.

## **Break**

### **Charitable Contributions Committee (CCC) presentation**

Members of the Charitable Contributions Committee (Pam Cieslak, John McAvoy and Ann Schwarz) presented on the role of the group and its work with local and regional charities. The CCC performs an extensive review of charities and meets with them on-site before deciding to fund them.

The CCC requested the release of designated funds for the first and second quarter of 2023 (\$10,000 total), which was unanimously approved by the council. Anne Lysaught will let the Finance Committee know.

There was discussion on how to fundraise for the CCC and extend its reach. Topics included increasing awareness of the CCC and its unique strengths, and ways to generate funds for the CCC's charities in case funds from the parish budget are smaller. One idea was adding one-time fundraising drives for specific charities.

There was also discussion on the budget afterwards. Overall the trends are similar to last year and SMMP is on track to meet the budget once we factor in other sources of income such as end of year donations.

### **Status updates on commissions**

Christian Service Commission:

Big Day of Service needs more volunteers. There may be fewer people signing up this year due to a busy school sports season.

Christian Worship Commission:

A seminarian, Joshua White, will speak at the Masses on November 5 and 6.

Burt Marlowe is the new coordinator for greeters and Sandy Renehan is the new coordinator for Eucharistic Ministers.

Fr. Max and Deacon Ken are preparing for All Saints, All Souls, Advent and Christmas liturgies.

Stewardship Committee:

The Volunteer Appreciation dinner will be on January 21, 2023, with family-style dinners catered by Angeli's. A deposit for \$500 has been put down.

### **Other**

Based on email feedback from parishioners, the council discussed ways to display hymn numbers and how the new Camino software will allow parishioners to upload their own pictures to the parish directory.

The Men's Club has approved some purchases, including carpet cleaner, and will also help with the rectory.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 after the closing prayer led by Fr. Max.