

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**March 1, 2022**

**Council Members Present:** Mike Anderson, Fr. Max Behna, Mary Kienstra, Liz Kruk, Dan Lawler, Chris Lupo, Anne Lysaught, Kathy O'Rourke, Barb Ryan, Susan Stonesifer, Olivia Zabel

**Council Members Absent:** Robert Presnak, Terry Wagner

**OPENING AND PRAYER:** Tonight's meeting was held in the Upper Room. Susan Stonesifer supplied the prayer and Kathy O'Rourke called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2022 MINUTES:** All members agreed to approve the minutes, none opposed. Minutes approved.

**PASTOR REPORT** from Fr. Max

- The Art & Environment job description is ready to be posted. This part-time position should hopefully go out in the next week or so. In the meantime, Easter planning is moving forward and reorganization/inventory is going well.
- Loretta Mercadante is retiring from her position as Parish Receptionist before Easter. Stephanie Barcel is working on a job description for a new part-time receptionist.
- Fr. Max attended the Deanery meeting on 3/1. Bishop Hicks attended this meeting; he shared information about the administrative restructuring in the Pastoral Center.
  - A third-party consultant came to assess the Pastoral Center. This consultant collected data and suggested changes to the administrative structure. Fr. Max does not necessarily believe these changes will affect the parish level, but instead affect how the Diocese will support individual parishes. It is still early in the process.
  - Bishop Hicks is planning to lift the dispensation for Mass by Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday.

**RECRUITMENT UPDATE** from Susan Stonesifer

- Fr. Max, Susan, and Bob have met and created a timeline for recruitment. Fr. Max will reach out to people he believes might be interested, in addition to advertisements in the bulletin and other communication.
  - Susan will share the timeline with PC.
  - This group is planning a PC orientation meeting for 5/25.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

#### CSC from Mary Kienstra

- Charitable Contributions asked to release the Q4 funds (\$5k). PC approved – CC can release the funds.
- Some of the CSC and CWC ministries are having trouble getting volunteers. Mary is suggesting a return to the Ministry Weekend, perhaps asking the Welcoming Committee to help organize and build excitement.
  - PC discussed running the ministry spotlights again in the bulletin and conducting “spotlights” with individuals who are already involved in the various ministries. PC discussed other methods of reaching out to interested individuals.
- Other notes are in the report.

#### CWC from Barb Ryan

- Notes are in the report.

#### CFC from Chris Lupo

- Women’s Cafe had a snow day in February, but still met the following Thursday. Fourteen women attended.
- Other notes are in the report.

#### ADMIN from Anne Lysaught

- No updates

#### ALL SAINTS from Anne Lysaught

- The diocese is still thinking about the change in loan terms, no decisions have been made yet. ASCA is still looking for support.
- Their open house was very successful.
- They have an idea of doing a rotating art fair, where they would put student artwork in churches around the community.

#### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE from Robert Presnak (emailed)

- The committee is exploring options for an educational seminar on Planned Giving.

#### YOUTH REPORT from Olivia Zabel

- District 203 switched to “mask optional.” People are slowly taking the masks off.
- Seniors have about 50 real school days left – which is exciting, but a bit surreal.
- The last show choir competition is this weekend – the North all-girls’ group has had a stellar season.
- The spring musical, *Footloose*, is starting after show choir season.
- Juniors are prepping for the ACT/SAT in April.

- The new homeroom model seems to be going well.

#### PARISH APPRECIATION EVENT from Mike Anderson and Kathy O'Rourke

- The food vendor has been selected: Sharkos! We will still ask parishioners to bring desserts.
- The band has been secured.
- There has also been an inventory of the kitchen to make sure there are enough supplies.
- Registration will open on April 1 – probably through Sign-Up Genius.
- Still working on the table layouts, since appetizers and other portions of the event will be outside.
- Hoping to have PC members help out, in addition to the Boy Scouts.

PC took a short break from 8:04-8:16 p.m.

#### DIOCESAN SYNODAL PROCESS from Fr. Max

- The Diocese is looking for parishes to have summaries of multiple listening sessions by the end of April. Essentially, the parish would host listening sessions, then the summaries of those sessions will make a path up the chain of command until the information reaches Rome.
  - Fr. Max is planning two listening sessions (dates TBD) about various questions. There will be a facilitator and note taker for each session, so the feedback can be compiled and sent to the Deanery.
  - PC discussed how to format and coordinate these sessions.

#### WELCOMING COMMITTEE from Mary Kienstra, Dan Lawler, and Kathy O'Rourke

- The Welcoming Committee has been trying to nail down their goal as a committee – they are a service group, but they're also emphasizing the social and relational aspects. They want to purposefully invite people to the parish to deepen their faith.
- For the short term, the WC will continue to support other ministries, but for the long term, the committee wants to work on neighborhood outreach, database improvements, and filling social gaps at SMMP.
- PC discussed this topic in depth.

#### WHIP AROUND

- PC discussed the following:
  - Good feedback about the bathroom updates.
  - Positive response from the Sophomore Retreat this last weekend (Feb 25-26).

- Didn't know that there were additional reconciliation opportunities during Lent.
- Feedback about having technology/electronics at the front to share announcements, hymn numbers, etc.

Susan Stonesifer supplied the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

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## CSC REPORT

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### **Christian Service Commission 2021-2022**

Monthly Report to the Parish Council

**March 2022**

#### **Leadership Guidance Request:**

- Charitable Contributions is requesting guidance for 4th Quarter Funds
- Pastoral Ministers of Care needs new volunteers to serve their ministry

**Bereavement:** nothing new to report

Terry Taylor

**Big Day of Service:** nothing new to report

Carrie Tilton

**BSA Scouts (Troop 507):** The Troop will be welcoming new Scouts bridging from multiple Cub Scout Packs this month. They are helping with a local, council-level food drive for WSCP (door hangers and pick up), and a campout is planned for the March 19th weekend. The Troop is planning to help out at the Appreciation Dinner in May (bussing tables and whatever else is needed/appropriate).

Other news: the Troop, Pack and some Girl Scouts participated in 11am mass on Sunday, February 6th for Scout Sunday. We had a great turnout. Thank you to Father Max, Deacons Ken and Terry, Desmond and Felice for your support/assistance before and/or during the event!

Carrie Tilton

**Charitable Contributions:** The Charitable Contributions Committee met on Tuesday February 8. After hearing site visits and financial reports, the committee voted to make donations to St. Patrick's Residence and Sharing Connections. The committee will meet again after hearing from the Parish Council regarding 4th quarter funding.

Pam Cieslak

**Christmas Giving Tree:** nothing to report

Mary Anderson

**Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral lunches and Emergency Meals):** nothing new to report  
Kathy Kalina

**Cub Scouts (Pack 507):** The Blue & Gold event is being held Sunday, February 27th. This is an opportunity for all Cub Scouts and their families to come together with the main objective of a bridging ceremony for the oldest Cub Scouts; many "bridging" into a BSA Scout Troop (others retiring).

Other news: the Troop, Pack and some Girl Scouts participated in 11am mass on Sunday, February 6th for Scout Sunday. We had a great turnout. Thank you to Father Max, Deacons Ken and Terry, Desmond and Felice for your support/assistance before and/or during the event!  
Carrie Tilton

**Daybreak Transitional Housing:** Each of our 3 families are progressing. After bouncing from job to job, the father of one of our families seems to have found employment that both fulfills him and supports the family. This is a significant bright spot. Each family is doing exceptionally well with budgeting and financial management. Please pray for our one family that continues to struggle with very difficult family dynamics, previous childhood trauma of the 12 year old son, and other mental health issues. We are getting exceptional support from Bridge Communities with these issues as our mentor teams are not equipped to handle this. We have been blessed with a car donation from a generous parishioner for our one family whose vehicle is on its last leg. They are grateful beyond words.  
Carl VanDril

**Earth Care:** nothing new to report  
Chris Mulvaney

**Food Pantry:** nothing new to report

**Holiday Food Basket Committee:** Easter Ham Food Baskets:  
Information about Easter donation opportunities will appear in the March 5, 2022 bulletin. There will also be posters advertising our Easter donation opportunities. The poster has a QR code that when scanned, brings you to the Sign Up Genius SMMP donation site.

On Thursday, April 7, 2022, we will be receiving and distributing Ham Food Baskets to families of 6 and individual Veterans. Additionally, 3 agencies have asked for our help, supplying them with much needed food and household items. The three agencies asking for help are: Mutual Ground/Breaking Free in Aurora, Mercy Housing-Marion Park, in Wheaton and 360 Youth Services in Naperville.

Because of the increasing and expanded needs from the agencies, Sign Up Genius will now be used. There will be our usual Ham Food Baskets for families of 6 and now Ham Food Baskets for individual Veterans. Additionally, parishioners will be able to choose to donate needed items from lists the agencies have provided.

The Sign Up Genius will be ready for parishioners to sign up on March 5, 2022.

Judy Fus

**Knights of Columbus:** no report yet

**Legion of Mary:** no report yet

**Men's Club:** The Men's Club sponsored the annual bingo night on February 4<sup>th</sup> at the Parish Center.

There was a great turnout by the SMM parishioners (115 people max) who enjoyed great bingo payouts, refreshment, food and fellowship.

Approx. 44 members (+4 people on Zoom) and 32 guests attended our monthly meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Center.

This was our annual "couple" night dinner for the spouses and significant others of the Men's Club members.

Highlights from our February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting included:

- Bob Presnak gave the membership a summary on a very successful Bingo night on February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The members received an update on the Chicago White Sox game being planned for May 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Terry Wagner gave us a brief update on 2022 picnic to be held on September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The details on Men's retreat on March 11-13<sup>th</sup> in Mundelein was discussed and members were encouraged to attend if possible.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> card night of 2022 was held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Parish Center.

Men's Club card or poker night is now referred to as "social" night, as members have been encouraged to attend and build camaraderie within the club.

Our next Men's Club meeting is on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Parish Center.

Mark Quinn will be addressing the group after the formal business meeting and giving his insight on the upcoming elections and local politics.

Jeff Krebs

**Military Ministry:** no report yet

**Sunday Nursery:** closed until further notice due to Covid protocols

**PADS:** We delivered meals to the homeless on Feb. 10 and are scheduled for 3 food deliveries in March. We have been asked to continue the food delivery program until Summer. While the closing of the sale of the Downers Grove Red Roof Inn to DuPage PADS is on track for March, I heard secondhand that families with school age children won't move immediately. We still don't have a role outside of food delivery. I was told that after the sale, volunteer opportunities will become better defined.

Steve O'Brien

**Pastoral Ministers of Care:** I was informed on February 18, 2022 that one of our Pastoral Minister of Care has resigned due to health reasons and another Minister is in the hospital, surgery might be a possibility for him. So currently we are down to 7 active PMC. In 2019 we had 14 PMC. In the last few years, our PMC have diminished due to health or that they have moved away. Many of our PMC have served this ministry for around 20 years. I have shared my concerns with Mary Kienstra and Deacon Ken Miles, asking for their suggestions for increasing our PMC.

Our Pastoral Ministers of Care continue to visit our Homebound parishioners. We also continue Sunday morning Communion Service at Sunrise.

Judy Fus

**Christmas Giving Tree:** nothing new to report

Mary Anderson

**Pro-LIFE Committee:** nothing new to report

Mary Ann Cronauer

**Refugee Support Group:** On February 6 after the 9AM and 11AM masses the Refugee Ministry hosted a speaker from Exodus World Services. The speaker spoke on the refugee resettlement program in the United States and on services that Exodus provides for refugees and on ways the general public can help. The program was attended by about 18 people and several people signed up showing interest in our ministry. Our next meeting is March 1.

Steve Griffin

**St. Vincent dePaul:** no report yet

**September Club:** no report yet

**Sharing Parish:** nothing new to report

Virginia Cox

**Sunshine Ministry:** nothing new to report

Mary Straub

**Welcoming Committee:** nothing new to report

Judy Reiser

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## CFC REPORT

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CFC Report –February 2022

Faith Formation – Gr. K to 8<sup>th</sup>

First Communion registration was online this year for our 67 First Communicants. The dates are April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> – 11:00 a.m. masses. For the final prep, there will be an in-person retreat this weekend and a virtual parent/child night next week with Fr. Max.

Our final large group virtual family faith formation night is on March 16<sup>th</sup> with the theme of Lent. Fr. Stan from Alenga, Uganda will be our guest speaker. His mission will be the beneficiary of our Lenten service project for grades K-8. Monetary donations will be accepted that will go towards building desks for the school children as to the raise the children out of the dirt.

My deanery hosted a virtual retreat for catechists given by Julianna Stanz, a nationally renowned speaker on catechesis.

Ash Wednesday plans are underway. Our students will do the readings for the 4 pm service and our catechists will distribute the ashes.

In planning for classes next year, we hope to open registration up in April. To give families an incentive for early registration, CFC discussed the possibility of offering a frozen tuition price for this year if they register by May. After that, we would increase the tuition by \$10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqui Snyder

### **Youth Ministry Report**

The Diocese has updated and will continue to update our Covid guidance in reaction to changes at the state level. Currently, the masking guidance for our formation programs has moved to masks recommended from masks required. We expect that there will be more changes with the CDC updating their guidance.



Our 10th graders will begin their final preparations for confirmation including completing their service learning, writing reflections, making up missed sessions, and a final interview. Our confirmation is scheduled for Friday, May 13th at 7 pm with Bishop Kane.

Our Peer Ministers lead the 10th grade retreat which is focused on the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit this past weekend. They shared their stories about understanding, knowledge, wisdom, counsel and courage to give real life examples of using these gifts. Their small group conversations reinforced the ways that our teens can explore these gifts in their lives. Overall, it was a very positive experience for our young people. We will be meeting this week to review our preparation and the retreat before planning our next activities.

We are hoping to begin offering rosary prayer nights once a week during lent. We will be promoting it to all high school teens and potentially for their parents to have their own space.

We are also exploring some spring and summer youth and young adult activities now that Covid guidance is changing and allowing us more opportunities.

Dan

## **FEBRUARY CFC REPORT**

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

Be Formed groups began Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. We have 40 people journeying through the Liturgy of the Eucharist through Easter.

Morning Enrichment had about 30 women learning about “For Such a Time as This”, that God is calling us to evangelize, wherever we are at, in our own journey.

Saturday Morning Live hosted Fr. Pat McDevitt, who was one of our weekend “associate” priests. 34 people attended.

We had to cancel our Table for Two event as only 1 person had signed up.

Women’s Café had a snow day in February.

Women’s Retreat had 15 attendees. It was a lovely time of reconnecting, fellowship and journeying together with the women who journeyed with Jesus during his passion.

Baptism Prep was also cancelled for a snow day and rescheduled for this Thursday, March 3. We will have 3 families attending. Only 2 Baptisms were scheduled in February and only 3 in March.

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

Men’s Retreat is March 11-13, please pray for those attending and those who will hopefully sign up in the next week.

Morning Enrichment on March 9<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Michael Sparough will speak on St. Ignatius and his contributions to spirituality.

Women's Café will be meeting again on March 17

SML: Jeanine Jelinek, assistant to Abbot Austen, will speak on Discipleship on March 19 (this is virtual)

"Into the Breach" virtual series for men sponsored by the KOC

"Conversion" series from Bishop Barron presented by Dn Joe for 4 weeks of Lent.

Kelly

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## CWC REPORT

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### **Altar Servers**

Inactive

*Ken Miles*

### **Art and Environment**

Ashes, Palms and Easter flowers have all been ordered for the Lenten/Easter season.

*Submitted by Barb Ryan*

### **Baptism Assistants**

No report.

*Kelly Reznicek*

### **Bread Bakers**

Brigid Harren, head of this ministry, resigned.

*Submitted by Barb Ryan*

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

- For EMs, Lent through Easter schedule has been issued, guessing that only about 30-40% of the registered EMs are serving these days.
- 5PM and 9AM EM slots are almost always pre-filled, 11AM less so.

*Submitted by Bill Hassett*

### **Family Altar Servers**

Inactive; need for new ministry lead.

*Submitted by Barb Ryan*

### **Greeters**

No report.

*Submitted by Desmond Curran*

### **Linen Launderers**

No report.

*Loretta Mercandante*

**Liturgy Coordinator**

Planning for Lent and Easter is in process.

*Ken Miles*

**Lectors**

No report.

*Felice Chillemi*

**Music Ministry**

Contemporary Choir:

Contemporary Choir is back to full choir for those choir members who are comfortable singing in a large group at this time. We will be practicing and preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

*Submitted by Brian Pelz*

**Sacristans**

No report.

*Submitted by Barb Ryan*