

St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
April 11, 2023

Present: Mike Anderson, Fr. Max Behna, Mary Kienstra, Dan Lawler, Anne Lysaught, Lise Nauman, Steve Novotny, Kathy O'Rourke, Bob Presnak, Barb Ryan

Absent: Susan Stonesifer

Fr. Max led the opening prayer at 7 pm.

March minutes:

The March meeting minutes were approved without edits or comments.

Council recruitment:

There was discussion on recruiting new at-large members to the pastoral council, including the invitation and discernment process, and the desire for new members to be mission-oriented. There was also discussion on how departing at-large members can put their formation at the service of the parish going forward.

The council will put a recruitment insert in the parish bulletin with mission-oriented language and circulate it the weekend of the 3-day parish mission preaching series. A recruitment invitation will also be added to the Monday Missives emails.

Ideally, new at-large members will attend the June 1 pastoral council meeting.

Pastor update:

Holy Week

The Holy Week and Easter liturgies were very well-attended, from weekday Mass to Masses on Easter Sunday (standing room only at 11 am, and full church and parish center at 9 am). There was high demand for confession on Good Friday as well. An overflow Easter Mass in the parish center will be added at 11 am next year.

Feedback from parishioners was positive, especially about the availability of evening Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Holy Week will be discussed more at the Christian Worship Committee meeting this month.

Staff

Katie Matar, Kathryn Severance and Millie Gredlics have been hired as part-time receptionists.

Phone interviews for the business and building manager will start soon; the goal is to do in-person interviews this month. Salaries are being discussed with the finance committee.

Stephanie Barcel's last day as business manager will be May 10.

Expanding parish leadership team

Fr. Max and Rochelle are discerning and reaching out to potential candidates, and are hoping to finalize decisions this month. The goal is to bring 2 new people onboard to work with Fr. Max and Rochelle.

Eucharistic Revival

Deacon Don Helgeson is the parish representative for the Eucharistic Revival. He will lead initiatives and oversee the process, with planning beginning in May.

The idea of the revival is to build up the Eucharist at parish level next year, and think of creative ways to help people encounter Jesus truly present, whether more deeply or for the first time. Ideas include hosting an exhibit on Eucharistic miracles.

MyParish app

St. Margaret Mary's bulletin printer, Diocesan, has an app called MyParish which brings content from the parish website and YouTube channel into one place. Ideally, this would be launched at SMMP in May. There was discussion on the app and providing informal tutorials for it. These could be provided in-person by the pastoral council and volunteers, and via a Monday Missives message.

10 minute break

SMMP Mission Update:

3-day parish mission (preaching series with Deacon Keith)

Fr. Max will provide an overview before each of Deacon Keith's talks, and Deacon Keith will incorporate elements of encountering, growing in and being Christ.

Diocesan retreat on parish renewal

The retreat is on May 5. If interested, council members can email Rochelle, and she will register them.

The parish will cover the cost of attendance for up to 3 people.

Opportunities to discuss parish mission

There was discussion having additional meetings or formation sessions to go more in-depth on the parish mission (encountering, growing in and being Christ). Fr. Max will talk to Deacon Keith about formation and next steps after the 3-day parish preaching series.

Budget:

There was discussion about fundraising, ministries and collaboration, and how the budget relates to the mission.

SMMP Annual Report:

There is a draft available for council members to review and collaborate on. The goal is for Mike to submit it to Julie Duffin and do final edits with her by early May.

Pastoral council name meaning:

Barb will talk to Sister Madelyn about the reason for calling the council the pastoral council.

Town hall:

The recommendation is for the SMMP town hall meeting to be deferred a year since there is a lot going on right now, including staff changes.

Funeral preparation:

Currently, Deacon Terry, Deacon Don and Sandy Renehan assist bereaved families with funeral preparation, and are hoping to recruit two new people to join them.

New parishioners:

There was discussion on new parishioners, including how many people are joining and how to welcome them to the parish.

Directory:

The parish directory needs updating; a photo directory has also been suggested.

Foot washing:

There was a brief discussion on how to recruit more volunteers. Fr. Max would like to try catechising and communicating about it more before Holy Thursday.

Other:

Other topics were repairing appliances in the church, and memorial flower sales done in past holidays.

Fr. Max led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned around 9:20.