

St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Minutes for March 7, 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: Nobody was absent.

February Minutes:

The minutes from the February meeting were approved without edits or comments.

Budget Report:

Sue Schroeder presented a draft of the budget, answered questions from council members, and provided an overview of budget goals, components, and methodology.

Pastor's Report:

Staffing

There was discussion on the building manager and business manager roles. The search for a building manager is ongoing, and a new business manager will also be hired in the near future, as Stephanie Barcel will be leaving this spring. There was also discussion on the information technology needs of the parish.

Parish Renewal Seminar

The diocese is hosting a seminar on parish renewal in May, with speakers from the Divine Renovation organization. Fr. Max will check if there is an RSVP deadline.

Pastoral Council Recruitment

There was robust discussion on recruiting new members for the pastoral council.

10 minute break

Mission Update:

There was robust discussion on how to make the parish vision of finding new life in Christ a reality; feedback and suggestions on the mission and vision are encouraged. Ideas include forming a committee for interested parishioners to work with Rochelle. The April mission preaching series with Deacon Keith was also discussed.

The pastoral council will meet with Fr. Max again after Easter to discuss additional topics such as the Divine Renovation book and long-term planning.

Annual Report:

Mike will work with Julie Duffin on the annual report on the state of SMMP. The goal is to send it out before May.

Town hall meeting:

There will be an SMMP town hall meeting held after the annual report is sent out; the focus will be on the vision and mission of the parish. The goal is to provide parishioners with additional clarity and understanding on these topics, in a question and answer style. Fr. Max will talk to Rochelle about scheduling and reaching out to the council after today's meeting.

Pastoral Council:

There was discussion on the role of the pastoral council, specifically with regard to finances, and the pastoral council constitution (history and assessing the need for updates).

Radical Hospitality:

There was discussion on simple ways to create a more welcoming environment, and on feedback received from the Welcoming Committee and pastoral council. There was also discussion on how to concisely convey the history of the parish to new parishioners and visitors.

Christian Formation Commission:

There will be a Lenten penance service for children in grades 4-8 during the week of March 12. There was also discussion on past and present opportunities for high school students to participate in penance services.

Closing Prayer:

Fr. Max led the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.