

## **St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting minutes for October 3, 2023**

**Present:** Fr. Max Behna, Mary Kienstra, Anne Lysaught, Kelly Metzger, Lise Nauman, Jennifer Nolan, Dan Lawler, Steve Novotny, Bob Presnak, John Runger

**Absent:** Susan Stonesifer

The meeting opened at 7:05 pm with a prayer led by Fr. Max.

### **Clarity questions**

There was a brief overview of the four clarity questions from the Amazing Parish framework, as they relate to SMMP. The goal of these is to refine the vision and mission of the parish:

1. Why do we exist? Helping people experience new life in Christ.
2. How do we behave? Core values that we are aspiring to: healthy teamwork, unceasing prayer, and active discipleship. At SMMP - Positive attitude, joyfully Catholic, and other's-first mentality.
3. What do we do? Help people encounter Christ (evangelization), grow in Christ (Catechesis), and be Christ (discipleship)
4. How will we succeed? Radically hospitable, faithfully Catholic, vibrant community

### **Council President's Report**

Steve Novotny gave the council president's report, to include:

- Children's Mass was a great success with an additional 100-150 people in attendance. There is a nice number of children in the choir. In the future, proactive communication would be helpful to ensure greeters can prepare for the additional chairs needed and adjust the choir sound setup.
- Meeting process changes - Lise will be attentive to time during the meeting and notify Steve if discussions are going longer. Council members were asked to work to stay as close to the agenda timing as possible.
- Susan still doesn't feel well and doesn't have the stamina needed to attend the meetings. She will watch recordings and asked how she can be supportive of any of the Council initiatives. Steve and the planning committee suggested that we might solicit auxiliary support for some of the additional initiatives that the Council is taking on.
- All Saints funding - In the All Saints report sent to the Diocese it appears that SMMP donated \$2,500 when in actuality SMMP donated \$50,000 to the total budget (it is noted later in the report). The IL State tax credit loss will have a significant impact to all Catholic schools. (See All Saints SMMP Contribution; Attachment 2)
- Steve drew the Council's attention to the Subsidiary Report - (See Att 3 - Subsidiarity Basics(OLD))
- Steve reminded the Council of the Fall retreat scheduled for 10/28. The day will begin with daily Mass at 8:15 a.m.
- Reports, agendas, meeting minutes and action items will all be in the Google Drive. Council members should plan to check the Drive and read reports and the agenda prior to meetings. If someone is assigned to an action item they should provide updates in the document in the Drive as well. Access (See Att 4 - Action Items)

### **Pastor's Report**

Fr. Max gave the pastor's report on the following topics:

Fr. Max will use his report as a method to inform the Council. He asks that if Council members have questions they send him an email rather than ask questions at the time.

Signage Update - new campus signs have been ordered and are expected to arrive in late October/beginning of November. The signs closer to the street will be installed later as these will require permitting from the city of Naperville.

Narthex Update - going to move forward with the placement of the benches based on Lise and Kelly's conversation with the mom's group and the observable need for more seating. Going to wait to consider changes to the window until the benches are installed. There is significant glare produced on the clear windows in the rear of the Church. It is generated from the sun entering the south windows in the narthex. This will be put into the Administration Commission's hands to move forward with this.

Interpretation for the Deaf - The Joliet Diocese office reached out a few weeks ago and asked if SMMP (one of three parishes) would host a few events for the deaf community in the area:

1. Saturday vigil Mass once a month that would follow after the 5 p.m. Mass. It wouldn't involve SMMP staff. A diocesan priest would offer Mass in American Sign Language (ASL).
2. Have an interpreter at one of our weekly Sunday Masses.

Father Max reported that we will likely move forward with those two events as we have offered interpretation for the deaf in the past and fits with our radical hospitality.

Tabernacle- Father Max shared some rationale for considering moving a tabernacle from the working sacristy to a more prominent position behind the altar (the tabernacle in the chapel would remain) and asked that the Council take some time to reflect and consider this in preparation for a conversation at the November meeting. His proposal is that if the decision is made to move forward with the move it would happen by June 1st which is the eve of the Feast of Corpus Christi and is at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Revival at the Parish level. Initial feedback was that a comprehensive plan be communicated to help people understand what and how this move would happen.

Staff - Newly hired Facilities Manager is no longer at SMMP. In the interim, the Administration Committee has stepped up and brainstormed how things could be handled until a new facilities manager can be hired. For example, Jackie and Dave Snyder volunteered to paint the staff offices that had been started. The administration has been working with Ray Jeffreys to assign certain Men's Club members to be on-call to help with emergency projects, to help advance projects that were started as well as others that we wanted to advance.

Moving forward our tentative plan is to start calling for resumes and feedback was solicited from the Council regarding suggestions to attract and identify strong candidates. The goal is to fill the position within the next two months.

## **New Business**

Appreciation Dinner - Bob, Kelly, John and Lise met last week and decided on the date of January 27, 2024 for the Appreciation Dinner. We are still waiting for formal quotes to make a decision on the caterer. (Angeli's, Sharko's, Clara's and Pancake Cafe were solicited for bids). Goal is to serve family style if it is within budget. It was very popular last year and people got their food much quicker.

Jennifer Nolan offered to handle communications for the event to include the invitation in the bulletin, RSVP management, and table seating (if needed).

Last year round tables were used and guests were assigned seats based on their ministry participation. This helped to facilitate connection between attendees and created a welcoming environment for newer parishioners.

Last year had 172 people in attendance.

Talked about how to handle appetizers and desserts. Do we outsource appetizers and desserts as a cost savings or should it be provided? Last year Bob and Collette provided appetizers and desserts. Previously attendees were asked to bring either an appetizer or dessert to share.

Set up begins on Friday afternoon when the tables get moved down to the Parish Center by the custodial staff. Men's Club helps to wire for the sound. Council members will be there throughout the day on Saturday to set up. SMMP has 205 plates and flatware, which has been used. Salads were pre-plated last year. Desserts and appetizers were served on paper plates. Dollar store tablecloths, minimal decorations, plates cleaned, etc. done on Saturday. Dishwasher is currently broken. Hopeful that some of the teens can help with a number of these things. Kelly and Lise will manage the kitchen and direct the teenagers the night of the event.

Music? Light background music as the evening gets started? Light jazz set?

#### **Other Updates:**

Christian Service Committee - Highlight is the Big Day of Service. More locally oriented than sending people out this year. Suggestion was made to look at the date because fall sports are still going on. A question was asked about where there was any follow-up on people with needs that the Parish could serve? A Council member reported that the Knights of Columbus and Men's Club reaches out to spouses of deceased members.

A question was raised about funeral luncheons no longer happening. It was requested for that to be addressed outside of the meeting.

Christian Worship Committee - The return of the cup is scheduled to begin the first weekend of Advent and will have a big impact on the communion process. The communion lines will be re-route a bit to facilitate the flow to address this. There is a need for additional Eucharistic Ministers.

Kelly R. is asking for volunteers to come break open the scriptures with the RCIA candidates during Mass.

Altar servers is currently lacking volunteers. Dean can no longer help lead that ministry and the first recruitment push didn't cross the threshold for the minimum number of servers to keep it going. The target number is at least 20, 30 would be the ideal. Goal would be to have three servers at each Mass.

Administration Commission Report - Main priority is how to cover during this time without a Facilities Manager. The Commission will work to identify needs and see if people can help step in until one is found.

Christian Formation - busy month getting classes started. Jacqui handling integrating First Reconciliation into second grade. There have been a lot of unique situations where sacraments were delayed, second language, etc. Had opportunities to have a lot of pastoral care interactions.

A question was raised about how Alpha is going.

Mary Kinestra is currently attending Alpha and reported that it is "fabulous"! So much better than she imagined. The radical hospitality is so over the top! Dinner is cooked by the Our Lady of Mercy parishioners, a musician who plays acoustical guitar during dinner and leads the group in song before the session begins, and a video each week that is very well done. Break into the smaller groups - all in her group are from SMMP and practicing Catholics so some of the questions are basic for that group. The content is very accessible - someone who is first learning about their faith and someone who is hoping to deepen their faith will both be able to find value in the content. She concluded by saying there is something very special going on at our Lady of Mercy. They are on fire for their mission!

Father Max commented that he thought that it would be very beneficial if some of the Council members experienced Alpha when it comes to SMMP in February so they could speak to it directly.

#### Meeting Minutes Approval

Please read the September minutes and give some feedback to Steve. Take a look at the action items and give feedback on the format and accountabilities.

Fr. Max closed the meeting with prayer at 9:25 p.m.