

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**December 4, 2018**

**Council Members Present:** Jim Chitwood, Mary Oliphant, Tom Cordaro, Julie Lomax, Brian Pelz, Dave Schwartz, Carrie Tilton, Chas Bellock, Joey Rose, Peggy Soeldner

**Council Members Absent:** Fr. Paul Hottinger

**Guests:** Anna Moore

OPENING AND PRAYER: Tonight's meeting was held in the Upper Room. Julie supplied the prayer. Jim called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

APPROVAL OF NOV 2018 MEETING MINUTES: Chas made motion to approve November minutes, Julie seconded. Minutes approved.

LEGION OF MARY from Anna Moore

- Anna began with a short history of The Legion of Mary, which has been active at SMMP for 8 years.
  - With Fr. Paul's permission, they participate in door-to-door evangelization, where they try to fulfill the needs of those they meet.
  - Current members: John Rhodes, Katherine Dunn-Elliot, Nancy Burns, and Mary (missing last name).
- There was discussion about the group's mission and purpose. Tom said that the action item from this discussion is to decide if the Legion of Mary should become a member of the Christian Service Commission, which could open a lot more doors for them.
- Julie made motion to vote, all agreed, none opposed. Legion of Mary is now part of the CSC.

POLARIZATION WITHIN SMMP from Jim Chitwood.

- Jim opened up the discussion to dialogue. Were there any additional thoughts after the November meeting?
  - PC discussed the presence of politics in the Church, and in the Social Justice issues addressed at SMMP.
  - Also discussed the possibility of creating open forums to discuss these issues. Tom will work with Mike to organize forums or discuss different formats for the parish writings.
  - Brief mention of the anti-abortion campaign = some details still need to be ironed out for that event.
- Jim suggested the Council continue to have private conversations amongst each other, and bring back the takeaways to discuss at the January meeting.

There was a short break for refreshments at 8:07 pm. Reconvened at 8:14pm.

PEACE POLE from Tom Cordaro

- Moved to January meeting.

## FREQUENCY OF ATTENDANCE COUNTS from Brian Pelz

- Brian proposed that we do attendance counts roughly once per quarter or twice per year, rather than monthly counts.
  - Since the diocese requires the October count, Brian suggested that we could add one more count at the mid-year and leave it at that.
- There was much discussion on possible timelines for another count.
  - Tom recommended that the Council let CWC decide when the other count should be.
- Brian will discuss with CWC which other month to do the count, and will stop taking attendance once a month. Then he will come back in the January meeting to vote on the proposal.

## APPRECIATION DINNER from Dave Schwartz and Chas Bellock

- Dave and Chas looked at an alternative to Angeli's, but have decided to go with Angeli's.
- They're looking for additional dishwashers. Peggy volunteered.
- Dave and Chas asked for feedback on appetizers and desserts. Too much? Not enough?
  - Mary noted that Angeli's trays of bruschetta were a little overwhelming in years past, but was good for last year so they should stick to those numbers.
- The overall budget looks the same as last year.

## COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND RECRUITMENT from Peggy Soeldner

- Orientation will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Upper Room at 7pm.
- Discernment will be May 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Core Center at 7pm.
- Council will encourage the commission leaders to come to the discernment day.
- Peggy encouraged everyone to reach out to anyone they think might be interested in joining the Council, including youth representatives. Tom reminded the Council to go through Dan Lawler for recruiting youth representatives.

## MINISTRY AND COMMISSION REPORTS (reports attached)

### CSC from Carrie Tilton

- Bereavement = Remembrance mass is next Thursday (12/13)
- Comfort Care = she's continuing to work on workflow
- Cub Scouts = they will have a new cubmaster at the end of February.
- DayBreak = 1 of 3 families is moving on, looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> family to replace the other.
- P&J advisory = there are many incubator ministries that aren't in sub-groups, so in next reports they will be listed the end. If they become full-fledged ministries, they will be brought to PC for approval (like Legion of Mary).
- Pro Life = Tom met with leaders of the Pro-Life committee and will move forward with the February event.
- St. Vincent de Paul annual clothing drive = January 12-13<sup>th</sup>.
- September Club = Klaus (President) and Jim (VP)

- Will write thank you notes for Dolores Peterman and Mary Lou Panik's many years of service.
- Parish Life split out = the Commission will have 1 formation meeting and discuss with the leaders to get their feedback regarding splitting it into 2 groups.

#### CWC from Brian Pelz

- Recruitment is a common thread for all of the ministries, so if anyone has ideas for recruitment feel free to share.
  - Dave suggested ministry organizers come talk to the Knights of Columbus and Julie suggested the Men's Club.
- Thank you to John Schlaman for music ministry and Lessons & Carols.

#### CEC from Julie Lomax

- Still looking for an All Saints representative, the trouble is that they meet on Thursday mornings and most people work.
  - Ideally should be an SMMP parishioner, and a parent or someone involved in All Saints.

#### Stewardship/Finance from Chas Bellock

- The Annual Appeal went out after the last meeting, but it's too early to draw any conclusions yet.
  - 143 pledge cards come back, but haven't compared to last year.
  - \$326,000 is the count so far, but need to compare to last year.
- Collections = \$23,000 under budget (2% under last year, so not so bad). Need to see results from Annual Appeal.
  - Peggy asked about more details re: the breakdown with the online contributions.
  - Chas will have results for January meeting.
- Brian asked about the plan for the Finance Committee to meet with the leads in December, and Chas said that the meeting is already planned.

#### ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION REP from Jim Chitwood

- The Council had asked the Admin commission to provide a Council rep, but no one on the commission has volunteered.
- Brian will talk to a few leads and see if anyone is willing to join. If not, Jim will have an offline conversation with Fr. Paul to determine next steps.

#### BIG DAY OF SERVICE CLOSEOUT from Julie Lomax and Carrie Tilton

- Served 19 organizations (including SMMP), about 200 volunteers, up 75-100 people from last year.
  - Most seemed happy and willing to participate next year.
- \$360 in monetary donations, so might have reimbursements to those who spent money on materials, they might give some to organizations who have asked for supplies, and they might carry over money for supplies for next year. They said they can work with Tom and Pat to set budget line item for that.
- Men's Club donated specifically, so they might include a thank you in the bulletin.

- They had heard a few suggestions on how to improve the event next year. Shorter volunteer day? This year was 9-4pm, but maybe next year could be 9-2pm instead, then they could invite everyone to come back for a communal meal. Thoughts?
  - Mary thought it would be great to share experiences.
  - Julie thought it'd be great community building.
- The date was too close to Thanksgiving this year, so they'll look at adjusting that was well.

#### MINISTRY REVIEW from Ministry Committee

- Moved to January meeting.

#### PROLIFE MINISTRY from Fr. Paul and Tom

- Moved to January meeting.

#### WHAT WE ARE HEARING

Jim asked for feedback on the Bishop's visit. Jim thought dialogue was interesting. Tom said that afterward, the Bishop said he was impressed with the Parish and he felt the "warm, welcoming atmosphere." Chas and Dave said good dialogue and presentation with the Men's Club.

- Chas = Fabulous concert on Sunday. Well-attended
- Mary = Good meeting!
- Dave = January 19<sup>th</sup> is Appreciation Dinner. Peggy will do dishes!
- Joey = Had a conversation with a couple switching from St. Raphael's and they're so thrilled to join. Very encouraging.
- Tom = At the concert and at Big Day of Service, the number of people who attended who were not members of the parish was significant. Many came from Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Raphael's, and there were a few people who weren't Catholic. So outreach and presence are good examples of All Are Welcome and how we're an asset to the wider community. Kudos.
- Brian = Love the spirit of the Big Day of Service. So thank you for that. Too many positives to count. Good from the ground up.
- Peggy = Fun to do the concert.
- Carrie = Not much to add.
- Julie = Good concert, good feedback on Day of Service.
- Jim = Hears very positive things about our parish. He's been to many parishes, and this is an awesome place.
- Becca = Good time at the concert and well attended.
- Thank You notes for Jenny McKendall and Chris Lupo.

The Council ended with a closing prayer at 9:07 pm.