

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 8, 2019

Council Members Present: Jim Chitwood, Mary Oliphant, Tom Cordaro, Brian Pelz, Dave Schwartz, Carrie Tilton, Chas Bellock, Peggy Soeldner, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Joey Rose

Council Members Absent: Julie Lomax

New Member: Anne Lysaught

Guest: Sue Schroeder

OPENING AND PRAYER: Tonight's meeting was held in the Upper Room. Dave supplied the prayer. Jim called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

APPROVAL OF DEC 2018 MEETING MINUTES: Chas made motion to approve December minutes, Joey seconded. Minutes approved.

WELCOME ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REP

- Parish Council members introduced themselves and welcomed Anne to the Council.

BUDGET UPDATE from Sue Schroeder

- In previous years, PC and commission leaders had requested budget information earlier to get a better idea of how to plan for the coming year. Sue noted that because of how collections and budgeting work, she has accurate data up until October 2018
 - November and December data won't be available until later in 2019.
- Sue reviewed the budget with PC and explained the following:
 - Based on the numbers currently available from 2018, we're about 4.6% below where we hoped to be.
 - Not great news, but Sue urged PC to either increase collections or decrease spending. She just wanted to give the PC a heads up about the budget so that PC isn't surprised to hear the results.
 - The finance committee meets 1/9 and will review the information in full at that time. She hopes to have more information and recommendations for PC in February.

MINISTRY REVIEW from Ministry Committee

- Dave suggested that perhaps SMMP find a volunteer "head hunter" whose responsibility would be to find volunteers for the different commissions.
 - Mary said she knows someone who did this for a different parish successfully, so she can put Dave in contact with that person.
- Carrie said she didn't have many other updates, except the following:
 - Comfort Care = continuing to work on workflow.
 - Sunday nursery = no change from last month's update.
 - Pro-Life = post-card signing campaign will take place the first weekend in February.

STEWARDSHIP from Chas Bellock

- Stewardship committee is meeting 1/9, where they will take a look at monthly contributions and discuss the results of the Annual Appeal. Chas will have more information in February.
 - November 2018 was \$456,000, vs. January 2018 \$582,000.
 - Pledge cards were down by 45 cards (down \$125,000) from January.
- Fr. Paul said there should be some follow through in trying to get new people to contribute.
- Mary encouraged Stewardship to “not be shy” about giving parishioners more information about the Annual Appeal.
 - Jim can make the announcement January 12-13th after Fr. Paul’s homily.
- For more awareness of Automatic Giving, Stewardship is looking into envelopes specifically for those who participate in Automatic Giving to put into the collections baskets each week.

There was a short break for refreshments at 8:07pm. Reconvened at 8:17pm.

PEACE POLE from Tom Cordaro

- Moved to February meeting.

MINISTRY AND COMMISSION REPORTS (reports attached)

CWC from Brian Pelz

- Not much to report, haven’t had the follow up meeting yet.
- Thank you to all the ministries for Advent and Christmas.
- John Schlamen ordered audio enhancement speakers, but he’s working towards announcing it in the bulletin to make it available for those who need enhanced audio.

CSC from Carrie Tilton

- Charitable Contributions = met through December. They’re done with their process and they’ll meet in the spring when they know their budget.
 - Mary asked if PC could get more detailed information about to whom Charitable Contributions is donating their money. Fr. Paul agreed. Carrie will ask.

CEC (Julie was absent)

- Mary had asked Julie for more information about RE participation to get an idea of the future of RE.
 - Fr. Paul suggested that perhaps Dan and Sue (RE) could provide a report to PC about the participation.

LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY GATHERING from Tom

- Next gathering is Saturday, February 9th.
 - Tom has about 1.5-2 hours worth of Parish Theme and Calling information that he’d like to share.
 - Tom asked for PC to let him know about any agenda items we might add to the day.

APPRECIATION DINNER FINAL UPDATE from Dave

- Angeli's is ready to go, need to provide final numbers. Dave said we're probably trending about the same attendance as last year. He also anticipates the budget to be the same as last year.
- Having good response for volunteers (Boy Scouts and a teen group).
- Band will start setting up around 6pm on the Friday before.
- Carrie asked if there will be a sign-up for the different volunteer opportunities, Dave said it was helpful so they'll get it set up.
- Might have Hospitality Sunday after the dinner, so that could change tear down logistics.

POLARIZATION WITHIN SMMP from Jim Chitwood.

- Jim asked if there was any feedback from the last month and reminded PC that at the last meeting we wanted to discuss a forum about the Church's teachings.
- PC talked about broadening the discussion on polarization beyond disagreements about Catholic Social Teaching.
 - Tom has tools and resources that he could share at the PC Leadership Gathering.
- Jim asked to discuss at the leadership meeting what's next for the parish—how can PC share the discussions we've had around this topic?

WHAT WE ARE HEARING

- Anne = She's hearing concerns regarding discernment.
- Fr. Paul = People "have never been in such a joyful place."
- Chas = Hearing discussion about the articles in the news re: Catholic Church. Many people fall away and then say they have faith but no religion.
- Mary = She's heard that even the number of Catholic funerals has decreased. She likes the postcards that Julie did as part of the Christmas mailing.
- Dave = Joe, Collette, and Joann did a fantastic job with set up and tear down.
- Joey = She hears how fantastic Tom Cordaro is and how he gives SMMP a very good face to the larger community.
- Tom = World Peace Day Interfaith Prayer Service was successful, and he gave kudos to Caitlin for her speech at the service. In the larger community, he's hearing that SMMP is a place where leadership in interfaith relationships happens.
- Brian = He hears that people love the new sign, kudos to all!
- Peggy = Likes the Facebook posts from SMMP, lots of good things being shared.
- Carrie = Cookies and Carols put on by Caitlin was very nice!
- Jim = Hears positive things all the time about this parish.
- Becca = pass.

The Council ended with a closing prayer at 9:10pm.