

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
October 2, 2018

Council Members Present: Tom Cordaro, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Julie Lomax, Mary Oliphant, Brian Pelz, Dave Schwartz, Carrie Tilton, Chas Bellock, Joey Rose

Members not present: Peggy Soeldner

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

APPROVAL OF JUNE and SEPT 2018 MEETING MINUTES: Julie Lomax made motion to approve June minutes, Brian Pelz seconded. Julie Lomax made motion to approve September minutes, Chas Bellock seconded. Both minutes approved.

PARISH THEME AND CALLING from Tom Cordaro

- Overall the presentations of the Theme and Calling went very well. Had a total of 50 attendees between all 4 masses (about 30 people at the 10am mass)
 - People were attentive and appreciated the meetings.
- New Seat Experiment: Overall feedback is that it was interesting, and it was effective in that some people moved and others didn't, so people spread out
 - Mary Oliphant would like to feature the "new seat" experiment in the bulletin so people could be reminded and do it all year round
- Small Faith Sharing: Registrations are low—deadline of OCT 5.
 - The Council noted that this is a very busy time of year for people, so they may not have gotten around to it.
 - Tom suggested that the small groups could be repeated in the winter or spring
 - The Council discussed the possibility of making the small group reflection information available online
 - The suggestion is to make information available online, then ask people to reflect and come share in the group to get the benefits of group prayer and discernment.

SEX ABUSE REPORT and RESOURCES from Tom Cordaro

- A total of 64 post cards and 9 letters were mailed to the Bishop, but many people took supplies home so there could be more.
 - There were 8-9 postcards that were not signed, but they were still appropriate so Tom went ahead and sent them.
- The report on the talk groups was sent to the Bishop, more detailed than the bulletin report. No feedback from the Bishop according to Fr. Paul.

- Tom putting together an annotated bibliography of outreach resources for the parish.
 - Will include titles, short description, and a link for people to follow
 - Tom will confirm links with the Archdiocese and will discuss with the communications director the best way to get this information to the parishioners.
- The Bishop is coming to visit on the October 17th and 18th
 - Parishioners are welcome to discuss the sex abuse scandal with the Bishop, though there will be no formal meeting allocated to that topic.
 - Mary suggested including this information in the bulletin the week before letting people know. Also suggested including the Bishop's itinerary.
 - Fr. Paul noted that the Bishop will be here for the Day of Service in November, but he may not be assigned to any one service project

PARISH THEME AND CALLING COMMITTEE PROPOSAL from Julie Lomax

- Picking up this proposal from last June about making Theme and Calling part of a subcommittee. Julie noted that more staff and leadership of the parish should be involved and the Council needs to get more feedback. She noted that much of the Parish Council time was taken up with the Theme and Calling at the expense of other topics.
- Fr. Paul noted that Theme and Calling is very important theological formation, which is worthwhile for the Council.
- There was much discussion on the value of making Theme and Calling part of a subcommittee and the time commitment involved.
- Council agreed to further consider the idea of respecting other people's time, and making sure to actively invite others to join in the Theme and Calling. To be continued next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: COMMUNICATIONS, STEWARDSHIP, APPRECIATION DINNER

Stewardship from Chas Bellock

- Committee met on 9/25 and determined that the Second Annual Appeal will be in early November so it won't overlap with the diocesan appeal.
 - This Appeal is to reevaluate what you're giving, not just to enroll new contributions.
 - The committee anticipates strong electronic gifting.
 - Chas will discuss the communication with the committee to determine the best way to convey the message to the parish.
 - Tom noted that November 10th-11th weekend is Stewardship Sunday, so that might be the best weekend for the Appeal.
- Dave Schwartz received feedback from parishioners who no longer want to give because of the sex abuse scandals—how should the Council address this?

- Overall, people are still unsure how they feel about the Church/diocese, but they are still appreciative of the way our church has handled it.
- Contributions are down 4.7% against budget, but it is early in the year. The committee is not alarmed yet, as they are hoping the Appeal in November will help
- Chas plans to include in the bulletin the stocks and planned giving information.

Communications—no update

Appreciation Dinner—no update

PARISH DOCUMENT REPOSITORY from Brian Pelz

- Brian introduced the initial setup for the repository, and noted that it is ready to be used, though it is in its initial layout.
- Brian will make sure the at-large SMMP email address will be the administrator of the Google Doc.

COMMISSION REPORTS (reports attached)

Religious Ed from Julie Lomax

- They are still short a few teachers, but they have some sort of coverage for the time being.
- Adult education is moving forward smoothly.
- Big Day of Service is moving forward smoothly—they are getting more volunteers this year to coordinate.

Ministry from Carrie Tilton

- Ministry subcommittee is meeting 10/3, so no update
 - Carrie noted that parishioner Anna Moore runs the Legion of Mary (Fr. Paul mentioned that it is similar to the Knights of Columbus), but it doesn't fall under any ministry committee here. Carrie will send background information and make it an agenda item for the next meeting to find it a home.
 - Parishioner Kathy Kalina felt that the Comfort Care Ministry is underutilized and wants to be helpful. Carrie communicated that the ministry subcommittee will try to help her and make sure the process is followed.
- Charitable Contributions meets 10/9. Fr. Paul is invited to the beginning of any meeting, though Oct. 9th does not work for him.
- Sunday nursery—no change, still in need of more babysitters and a coordinator.
- Pastoral Care is still in need of a ministry leader. Currently being negotiated.

Worship from Brian Pelz

- The head of the greeters is currently working on creating the emergency procedures

- Brian specifically wanted to thank all the service ministries for their efforts in implementing the Theme and Calling. It seemed to go very well across the board.

WHAT WE ARE HEARING

- Mary shared a welcome folder from St. Raphael's that she suggested we build/implement. "New Parishioner Welcome Sunday" so proud of their folders.
- Fr. Paul's trip was beautiful!
- Julie noted that the sign by the back door is really faded, and the lights by the front entrance weren't on when she arrived.
 - Tom noted that the timer needs to be updated now that it's getting darker earlier.
 - Tom noted that Dan Lawler is already updating the sign.
- Tom mentioned the email from the woman from Iowa was great, and the way we've handled the sex abuse scandal is well received and appreciated. He also noted that the lamentation from the prayer service has been sent all over the country, and many other parishes are thinking of picking it up.
- Carrie asked if there was any way we could assure our parishioners that the particular situation with the 2 priests won't happen again.
 - Fr. Paul suggested we ask the Bishop.
 - Tom suggested we invite the other retired priests in residence over to the church for a coffee and donuts event, just as a way to reach out and make that connection.
- Chas got an email about the budgeting process schedule, and he's concerned that there's no one scheduling the budgeting meeting.
 - Mike believes the PC should schedule it.
 - Fr. Paul suggested they talk to Sue.
- Brian would like to thank the Men's Club for another great picnic, and for 30 years of great picnics!
- Dave noted that at the 8am mass last week, there were at least 8 kids going in for Liturgy of the Word, and this week there were 15!
 - Fr. Paul noted that there are lots of new young families coming to the 10am mass.
 - Carrie asked if this might change the approach for the nursery—2 masses instead of 1? Might get the old babysitter back?
- Mary asked for other thank you notes.
 - Men's Club for the picnic
 - Pat McCauliffe was the leader of Daybreak, stepped down, but is still involved
 - Linda Griffith is a permanent sub for everyone in RE, and she is very involved in the parish.

The Council ended with a closing prayer at 8:22pm.