

**St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL**  
**Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**March 3, 2020**

**Council Members Present:** Chas Bellock, Tom Cordaro, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Liz Kruk, Anne Lysaught, Joey Rose, Dave Schwartz, Peggy Soeldner, Carrie Tilton, Terry Wagner

**Members Absent:** Casey Fuller, Brian Pelz, Chris Lupo

**Guests:** Ellie Rancich (on behalf of Casey Fuller), Barb Ryan (on behalf of Brian Pelz)

**OPENING AND PRAYER:** Tonight's meeting was held in the Upper Room. Peggy Soeldner supplied the prayer and Joey Rose called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2020 MINUTES:** All members agreed to approve the minutes, none opposed. Minutes approved.

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT** from Chas Bellock

- Chas received a copy of the weekly contribution report from Mike Prus. YTD, SMMP has received \$850,000, roughly \$30,000 behind budget.
- The committee has scheduled two seminars (March 24<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>), the first about investing based on Catholic values and the second discussing planned giving.
  - PC suggested creating a constant contact alert for these events, as well as including them in the mass announcements.

**AFTER MASS INTERVIEWS** from Tom Cordaro

- The interviews are beginning this weekend. Tom confirmed logistics with the volunteers.

**TOWN HALL MEETING** from Chris Lupo

- Joey Rose read a note on Chris's behalf. The note proposed a few methods to better communicate the state of SMMP's finances to the parishioners.
- PC discussed the premise of the note and the next steps that should be taken, if any. The Stewardship and Finance committees are both aware of a communication gap and are already discussing ways to address it.
- Council has proposed to form a task force that will find better ways to communicate SMMP's long-term financial challenges to the parish. Numerous PC members volunteered to join the task force. Council will reach consensus at the April meeting.

**PARISHIONER CENSUS NUMBERS AND RELATED ACTIONS** from Terry Wagner

- PC discussed the census report that Brian presented at the previous meeting, reviewing recent examples of Catholic parish consolidations.

- PC analyzed this topic in depth, specifically the factors that influence mass attendance and the number of parishioners, including the introduction of new members and the loss of current members.
- Some members noted the numbers are not a surprise, and staff and leadership are taking strides to tackle this issue. It is true, however, that the results of these efforts may not be seen immediately.
- It was proposed that PC learn more about why parishioners are leaving the parish in order to address the diminishing attendance, perhaps by finding the people who have left the parish or are deemed “inactive,” from the last two years or so. Once this list is compiled, someone can set up a formal process to contact them, with a long-term goal of developing a procedure that serves as a sort of “exit interview” for the future.
  - A sub-committee was offered as an efficient way to work on this concern. Some members volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

The Council took a break for refreshments at 8:05 p.m.

#### BUDGET CONFIRMATION from Joey Rose

- The Finance Committee has asked Council to confirm its budget by April 10<sup>th</sup>. PC reviewed and discussed the budget worksheet, filled out the line items, and will confirm before April.

#### COMMISSION REPORTS

##### CSC from Carrie Tilton

- The ministry spotlights are going into the bulletin. Carrie heard from one of the ministries that the leader would like more spotlights than one, in order to encourage volunteers. Instead of using the spotlight format, Carrie suggested this ministry put advertisements in the bulletin when they need it.
- Other notes in the report.

##### CFC from Chris Lupo

- Notes in the report.

##### CWC from Brian Pelz

- Notes in the report.

##### ADMIN from Anne Lysaught

- The committee has received an additional quote of \$15-1600 for the leaky window repair. They are reviewing that solution in depth.

##### YOUTH COMMISSION from Ellie Rancich (on behalf of Casey Fuller)

- Ellie said the confirmation retreat went very well last week. She heard a lot of positive feedback.
- She reported that PEER is discussing changes to the leadership going forward in order to create a stronger community.

## WHAT WE ARE HEARING

- PC discussed the following:
  - Events happening at Naperville North.
  - A positive note from a new parishioner regarding our “All Are Welcome” message.
  - Men’s CRHP was last Saturday. It appeared to be well attended and the speakers did a good job.
  - There was a question about the distribution of the cup at mass. If parishioners only take the wine, they are still welcome to come up for prayer.
  - That the kids who read at the 5 p.m. mass a few weeks ago did a great job.
  - The 4 p.m. Ash Wednesday mass seemed well attended and lively.

Council ended with a closing prayer at 8:46 p.m. Meeting adjourned.