

St. Margaret Mary Parish, Naperville, IL
Pastoral Council Minutes
December 1, 2020

Council Members Present: Mike Anderson, Chas Bellock, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Mary Kienstra, Liz Kruk, Dan Lawler, Chris Lupo, Anne Lysaught, Kathy O'Rourke, Elizabeth Rancich, Barb Ryan, Terry Wagner

Council Members Absent: Joey Rose

Please note: Discussions at this meeting were had in context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

OPENING AND PRAYER: Tonight's meeting was held via Google Meets conferencing tool. Barb Ryan supplied the prayer and Terry Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

UPDATE ON HOUSING FOR ECHO APPRENTICES from Dan Lawler

- Dan received estimates from the diocese, and other parishes expressed interest in continuing the program. There are also plans to speak with representatives at Notre Dame to see how we can work out this situation.
- Currently, SMMP is paying \$12,000 per year for the apprentices' stipend, so this would cost roughly \$8000 more (which would be applied to next year's budget).
- PC discussed the realities of taking on an apprentice next year when we are still determining what to do with the vacant roles (Sr. Madeline, John Schlamen, Tom Cordaro, etc.).
 - The finance committee will put together some basic estimates for what we can afford in terms of fulfilling the needs of the parish. This will be presented at the January meeting.
- PC is still interested in moving forward with the ECHO program and will continue to gather facts and information in order to formulate a plan.

HOW TO DEAL WITH PEW DAMAGE from Anne Lysaught

- Admin is establishing a care and repair program. They are getting quotes from three companies regarding pew refinishing.

- A company has come to evaluate the pews and recommended a deep cleaning to repair some of the lighter damage — if we stopped using the sanitizer. That deep cleaning could be done in house, which would remove the “stickiness” on the pews.
- Other options are being pursued to determine next steps.

PARISH APPRECIATION CELEBRATION PLANNING

- It was suggested that the parish appreciation dinner be postponed until there is a vaccine or until a later time. It was agreed that a future celebration will be planned.
- Terry also suggested that we make sure to include a note of appreciation in the bulletin to our volunteers and parish participants.

FEEDBACK ON VARIOUS PARISH EVENTS from Terry Wagner

- Terry asked for feedback on parish events in November:
 - Confirmation masses: Went extremely well.
 - Big Day of Service: A huge hit!
 - Sam Goodwin presentation: Excellent presentation! Glad that we could do it twice.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION 1, 3, AND 5 YEAR GOALS/PLAN from Chris Lupo and Dan Lawler

- K-8 plans (from Jacqui Snyder):
 - Hopes to update the curriculum, specifically books (which are 15 years old).
 - Also hoping to space out the costs and update the books over the course of three years.
 - PC discussed the possibility of going beyond textbooks, since texts tend to go out of date the minute they’re published. Perhaps looking at online-only options.
 - Looking to investigate new methods of education, a “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” program.
 - Also wants to recruit a dozen new volunteers.
 - Hoping to increase participation in programs and events such as family faith formation, eucharistic adoration, and service projects.
 - PC talked about partnering with All Saints Academy, but so far no response — the communication and partnership with ASCA will be

an agenda item going forward.

- Adult plans (from Sr. Madeline):
 - Hoping to hire a new director — someone with a strong Vatican II background.
 - PC discussed how to plan for the upcoming year, given Sr. Madeline's retirement.
 - PC discussed the possibility of collaborating with other parishes for programs and potentially a director.
 - Wants to develop a more collaborative program with adult and youth formation.
 - Looking to offer more spiritual opportunities, events and programs, including those that would address such topics that are relevant to today's society: racism, social justice issues, polarization, etc.
 - Hopes to roll out a new CRHP program and update other programs including the retreats, Bible study, Saturday Morning Live, etc.
 - Needs to determine who will run RCIA and clarify the job description.

- Youth and Young Adult plans (from Dan Lawler and Chris Lupo):
 - Looking to supplement and update certain programming, such as the Power and Grace online program.
 - Hope to provide creative ways for youth and adults to connect and form groups that fulfill spiritual needs, then develop a mentorship program.
 - Want to encourage a spirit of missionary discipleship where participants would invite, train and go forth to do the work of the larger Church.
 - PC discussed what these goals entailed and who might be responsible for them. Also talked about potential issues such as "Protecting God's Children" regulations and other diocesan guidelines.

- Next month, PC will talk about next steps for filling the staff vacancies.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT from Chas Bellock

- Since the last PC meeting, there has been only one Stewardship meeting, which focused on the Annual Appeal. The Appeal cards were mailed and information was included in the bulletin — Julie did a great job on the language!
- The next Stewardship meeting is next week to go through what the year-end communication will be, along with the information about the tax materials.
- Contributions are consistent — for the year, we are about \$6000 under budget.

- There has been a \$20,000 donation to SMMP, though where the funds will go is yet to be determined. Additionally, someone has chosen to underwrite the cost of replacing the ceiling in the Narthex.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PLANNING from Barb Ryan

- There will be 4 masses for Christmas, depending on volunteers. Communication is incredibly important in case the masses need to be cancelled.
- SMM is also allowing 40-50 extra people in the upper room, where the airflow and exits are better. Egress plans will be determined.
- Additionally, the new pulley system still needs to be installed.

PARISHIONER NEEDS DURING COVID from Dan Lawler

- Staff believes that calling parishioners is a great idea, but is not a feasible task for the staff members to complete at this time.
- Additionally, Tom has already collected \$10,000 for parishioners in need — excellent response.

COMMISSION REPORTS

CSC from Mary Kienstra

- The response to Big Day of Service was phenomenal!
- PADS is delivering catered meals to those staying in hotels.
- There has been a change to the Giving Tree program, which has been detailed in an email and the bulletin.
- The commission is continuing to adapt and serve. Other notes are in her report.

CWC from Barbara Ryan

- SMM needs more volunteers for masses!
- Church decorations will be simpler this year, but should be covered.
- A parishioner asked why SMM is allowed to have masses, baptisms and other services given the current restrictions. Barb said it's due to separation of church and state, and that we have not had any cases of COVID due to the diocesan protocols in place.
- Notes are in her report.

CFC from Chris Lupo

- Notes are in the report.

Admin from Anne Lysaught

- The PPP loan forgiveness has not yet been requested on the advice of the Diocese.
- Notes are in her report.

Staff Report from Dan Lawler

- Notes are in his report.

Youth Report from Ellie Rancich

- Most events are virtual, so not many sports or in-person events.
- PEER is prepping for the sophomore retreat.

Barb Ryan supplied the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION REPORT
November, 2020

1. ADVENTURES IN CONTEMPLATION –Plans are being made for a January 2021 online retreat for this group. During November a Sunday evening Examen is being offered.
2. BIBLE STUDY – Semester I for Bible Study ended on Nov. 10th. The dates for Semester II are Jan 12 – March 9th
3. SATURDAY MORNING LIVE---On Oct. 23 Sam Goodwin gave an outstanding presentation on "Captured in Uncertainty." We provided an Encore event on Nov. 15 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. 80 parishioners and their friends attended via Zoom. On November 21st we had a panel presentations by frontline medical workers. They spoke about what it is like during this time of pandemic. 28 attended.
4. MORNING ENRICHMENT- "My Holy Family" was the topic for our Nov. 9th session. Joyce Donahue from the Diocesan Rel. Ed. Office gave us many ideas for building domestic churches. 17 attended. On Dec. 9th Marissa Griffith and Vince Keenan will provide a Morning of Reflection..."Waiting For God."
5. EVENING ENRICHMENT: On Dec. 16th, Terry Nelson-Johnson will speak on "Lord, Keep Us Busy Being Born"
6. WOMEN'S CAFE – Dec. 3 marks the date of the next Cafe. The session will have an Advent/Christmas theme.
8. RETREATS: John Blumberg and Sr. Madelyn have met twice to plan for the 2021 retreats.. All retreats will be presented virtually. Invitations to the Women's Winter Retreat will begin to appear in the bulletin
9. JOURNEY ON: Nov. 22 was the date for the Advent Journey On session. 17 attended. It was inspiring to hear how the women already pray and how interested they are in learning new ways of praying.
- 10: RCIA –
11. SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: Sessions are being held by phone or Zoom
12. PARISH MISSION: Fr. Tom McCarthy OSA is our reflector for the 2021 Mission. Topic: 'Our Restless Journey.' Due to the Covid restrictions, the Mission will only be one evening--- January 17th from 7:00-8:00 pm. Fr. Tom will preach at all the Masses on January 16 and 17, encouraging people to attend virtually.

Sr. Madelyn

Based on the number of rising cases, a couple of possible Covid exposures, and guidance from the Diocese we decided to temporarily suspend in person Confirmation Preparation, Peer Ministry, and Dare Greatly. We notified our families that they would be using the Ascension Press Digital Platform that was set up for them in the fall. Peer Ministry and Dare Greatly will have video meetings for the next few weeks. The Diocese also recommended that we suspend any in person instruction for two weeks following the holidays which would include our December 6th and January 10th sessions. We will continue evaluating based on the guidance from the Diocese and the State.

Two of our Peer Ministers notified us of positive Covid test results and after consultation with the Diocese, notified both our 9th grade and Peer Ministry families that potentially had contact with them. Because of our diligent following of all of the health and safety protocols, they were fairly certain that the chance of spread was very low and were not overly concerned.

We were able move forward with our Confirmation for Juniors on November 20th and 21st. We had a total of 65 candidates being confirmed including 4 from St. Raphael Parish. We have at least 7 candidates who are waiting to be confirmed in the Spring in the hopes that our restrictions might be different. The liturgies went very well with Fr. Paul and Deacons Ken and Terry presiding, music by Julie Leichtman and Becca Veys, and help from a number of volunteers.

Peace,
Dan

November 2020
Faith Formation – Gr. K-8

We are having a virtual Advent large group family Zoom on November 30 where Fr. Paul will address all in regards to the season of Advent as well as Marissa Griffith. Our 4th graders are presenting their Jesse tree ornaments virtually. Our Christmas large group family event is the Monday before Christmas, and we are seeking out kids and families to lead us in prayer and Scripture. Our students are participating in a service project making handmade Christmas cards for the needy. All Gr. K-2 students were provided with an Advent poster/sticker activity that we normally distribute after masses.

For those catechists challenged by Zoom teaching, we have met with them either in person or virtually to assist them with functions such as practicing screen sharing and using our new Google drive. Catechists are sharing wonderful resources there, and Sepha is uploading many resources for them as well, specifically Advent and Christmas ideas.

First Reconciliation: For those who opted for the home study sacramental preparation option, they have sent in copies of their completed textbook pages and a family reflection, which demonstrated the preparedness of the candidates to receive the sacrament. The virtual retreat was held on Saturday, November 7th, and the students were very much engaged and almost all of the candidates were present. Our parent/child night was a success where Fr. Paul discussed in-depth details of the sacrament, and the students witnessed a mock reconciliation. Only parents and students making the sacrament are invited to the service on December 2 due to capacity limits. This year 7 volunteers are needed to help with the service as well as 4 priests. We are expecting around 40 candidates and 5 will post-pone until next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqui Snyder

Christian Service Commission 2020-2021

Monthly Report to the Parish Council

December, 2020

Bereavement: no report

BSA Scouts (Troop 507): The Scout Troop has changed their meetings back to being virtual until, at earliest, end of January.

Both the Troop and Cub Scout Packs are in the process of re-chartering as required periodically. That is going well. Fr Paul has requested both Scout groups put together proposals (similar to RE) to be approved by the diocese and him in order to safely meet in small groups indoors. Timing of this request will depend on the pandemic.

Carrie Tilton

Charitable Contributions: The Charitable Contributions Committee has not met this fiscal year. The committee awaits word from the Parish Council that funds are available to distribute to worthy organizations.

Pam Cieslak

Comfort Care Ministry (Funeral lunches and Emergency Meals):

Nothing new to report - We are not providing funeral lunches or emergency meals at this time.

Kathy Kalina

Cub Scouts (Pack 507): For the time being, the Pack (family) meetings will take place during monthly outdoor hikes.

Carrie Tilton

Daybreak Transitional Housing: St Margaret Mary's Daybreak Transitional Housing ministry currently supports three homeless families. Our program is helping them by providing a safe place to live, grow, and attain financial stability and independence. Our ministry has not skipped a beat with the restrictions and risks of the Covid pandemic. We have been able to continue our work with video conference

technology. Daybreak placed a full page report in the weekly bulletin on Nov. 22 to share their progress with the parish. Please see the bulletin for the details.

Knights of Columbus: The SMMP Knights of Columbus were involved in the following activities in November and have the following activities planned in December:

1. Hosted the SMMP Fall Blood Drive with Versiti on November 14th in the Parish Center. We followed approved Diocesan COVID protocols. We had a strong turnout of 30 donors and collected 28 units of blood.
2. SMMP Knights assisted Mark Oliphant with the Drive-Thru SVdP clothing drive at SMMP on Nov 21/22.
3. SMMP Knights are hosting the last Sunday Rosary via Zoom on November 29th at 10:30am.
4. SMMP 40th Anniversary pint glasses are available for sale by the SMMP Knights of Columbus for a minimum donation of \$10. You may order online at kofcsmmp.com or contact Stewart Mattson at stewartmattson@comcast.net. Glasses will be available for delivery December 4th.
5. The Illinois Knights Vocation Raffle which benefits SMMP and Illinois Seminarians has been extended through December 2020. The drawing will be held January 15th, 2021. Total prize-pool is \$20,000. Contact Stewart Mattson at stewartmattson@comcast.net if you would like to purchase a raffle book.

Upcoming Events

1. Dec 4-12th - Fr Eduardo at St Petronille will be hosting a Novena for Our Lady of Mercy. The Novena will end with a Mass on the 12th at 8am. All events can be viewed on St Petronille's YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvNo_3DRIBPSBkdhbEB3j7Q
2. Dec 12th - the SMMP Knights will celebrate an online Silver Rose Prayer Service in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 11am.
3. SMMP Knights are hosting our annual Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. This will be socially distant and there are gift cards for participants. Please contact Chuck Graber for details at zebradaddy2@gmail.com.

Legion of Mary: no report

Men's Club: We hope that all readers here have had a great Thanksgiving! Our hope and prayer is that by this time next year, we won't need to be so very concerned about large family get-togethers during this special holiday season.

The Men's Club did welcome 46 member zoomys to the November 15th business meeting. At the meeting or during the month:

Members voted real-time during the meeting for potential days/times to help volunteer on the setup of Christmas decorations for inside the church and for the outside trees. Several dates were established. The Club will work with Arts and Environment on the scheduling.

Several MC members, along with Jill Mizen, took advantage of the unseasonable warm weather in mid-November to put up the new exterior tree lights donated by the MC at the October meeting. "...Rusty, we checked every bulb, didn't we?"

Unfortunately, the Men's Club wasn't able to host an after-event "Chili feed" this year for the Big Day of Service as it did last year (for obvious reasons). Several members did participate in the program and the Club made a financial donation to support supplies for the event.

The Club recognized, in its "Spotlight" program, a local restaurant - Jam and Jelly - as its business of the month. The program recognizes and discusses businesses that have supported SMMP and the Men's Club with donations for past events. They could use our patronage right now.

Volunteer opportunities at Loaves and Fishes were discussed in detail. Additionally, members received separate instructions on how to best enroll for individual volunteer efforts. Many members miss the quarterly Saturday group participation that the Club coordinated in the past - especially in the "grocery store" food distribution area. The covid restrictions have forced L&F to shut down the grocery store concept for the time being.

The Club's fiscal year has ended and a new 2020-2021 budget was presented and was approved by a vote of all present members. The new budget includes the expectation of multiple external and internal parish events as well as projecting funding donations for external local charities and the parish itself.

The November meeting agenda also reviewed the planned and upcoming parish activities, including details on Saturday Morning Live, Morning Enrichment, Sr. Madelyn's new book release, St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive and the Knights monthly Rosary program.

The next Men's Club meeting will be held on December 15th. After a short meeting, a program by Honor Flight Chicago will be presented.

Adrian Jaworski

Military Ministry: no report

Sunday Nursery: Nothing to report since we are not using the nursery during Mass.

PADS: The SMMP PADS meal delivery is now up and running. Tom Cordaro set up a web donation page, placed an appeal in the bulletin, and sent out a ConstantContact email to solicit for financial and volunteer support. The response has been wonderful. So far we have delivered 55 meals to the hotels where the homeless are staying. Our next deliveries are December 10 and 31.

Steve O'Brien

Pastoral Care: no report

Peace and Justice Advisory Working Group: Our next parish social mission weekend is the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Dec. 12/13) and the theme will be, "Relief for the Brokenhearted:

COVID-19 Stimulus for "the least among us." Our advocacy will focus on urging Congress to pass COVID-19 relief during this lame duck session that puts the most vulnerable and needy first. It is based on the letter sent to Congress by the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference.

Tom Cordaro

Refugee Support Group: Our mentors continue to work with our refugee family in West Chicago. Currently we are raising money to purchase Christmas gift cards for the family.

Tom Cordaro

Earth Care Sub-Committee: This year we will NOT be recycling Christmas lights. Instead we are asking people to save their old lights until next year when we will resume our recycling efforts.

Tom Cordaro

Outreach Projects:

Christmas Giving Tree: Donations of gift cards and cash are going well. We also have a good number of hand-made Christmas cards thanks to all the volunteers of the Big Day of Service. The biggest challenge is finding a Target or Walmart store that will take a church check or credit card to purchase \$8,000 - \$10,000 worth of gift cards.

Tom Cordaro

Pro-LIFE Committee: no report

St. Vincent dePaul: A clothing drive was held Nov 21-22.

September Club: no report

Sharing Parish: We will send the next scholarship checks in January.

Virginia Cox

Incubator Ministries:

Holiday Food Basket Committee: Our parish is once again collecting Christmas food baskets (for families of six) to be given to local social service agencies and distributed to low-income families in our area. Baskets will be delivered to church on Dec. 17.

Sunshine Ministry: nothing new to report

Big Day of Service: The Big Day of Service was held November 14. Because of the protocols surrounding the pandemic, volunteers either picked up projects at church and dropped them off later in the day or went out into the community to assist at food pantries or landscaping. Volunteers made fleece blankets for hospitalized kids and shelter animals and a variety of Christmas cards as well as placemats and ornaments

We collected baskets for 360 Youth Services, food for residents of PADS, and personal care items for Loaves and Fishes. The committee considered the day a success.

Mary Kienstra

CWC Report

December 2020

Altar Servers

No report.

Ken Miles

Art and Environment

AE needs a few volunteers for Sunday, Dec 20th afternoon for set up for Christmas celebrations. If anyone can spare an hour or so that would help so much.

Jill Mizen

Baptism Assistants

Deacon Ken would like to resume the use of Baptism Assistants at weekend baptisms. I have reached out to members of this ministry, and have gotten a few volunteers to assist as needed.

Submitted by Bob Presnak

Bread Bakers

No report.

Brigid Harren

Communications/Volunteers:

No report.

Patty Curran

Eucharistic Ministers

Recruited volunteers to help with Confirmation Masses.

Submitted by Bill Hassett

Family Altar Servers

Inactive

Mary Oliphant

Greeters

No report.

Submitted by Desmond Curran

Linen Launderers

No report.

Submitted by Loretta Mercandante

Liturgy Coordinator

Current Christmas plans; Christmas Eve Masses at 3 pm and 10:30 pm (with music before the Mass); Christmas Day Masses at 9 and 11 am. Usual in-person limits and protocols, with streaming of all but the

11 am Mass. If there is enough demand, Fr. Paul is open to doing a 5 pm Mass as well. No children's Mass or pageant. Deacons have begun assisting at Mass this Advent season and preaching once a month.

Submitted by Deacon Ken Miles

Lectors

No report.

Felice Chillemi

Music Ministry

- Thank you to Becca Veys and Julie Leichtman for providing music at the three Confirmations over two days.
- I spoke with Mike Prus regarding the next steps in hiring a Director of Music. I will provide this information to Liturgy Development and CWC.
- Scheduling additional vocalists and instrumentalists to sing and play at Advent and Christmas liturgies. Planned Musicians: piano, cantor, possible drummer, guitar/violin, 2 vocalists,
- Scheduling musicians to cover weekend Masses, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Reconciliation service, retreats, weddings and funerals.
- Mary Mulligan is planning and presenting a Taizé service for December 6 at 7:00 PM. It will be in church, but it will be a live streamed event only.

Submitted by Brian Pelz

Sacristans

No report.

Submitted by Barb Ryan

Sanitizers

We need volunteers for ALL of the Christmas Masses.

Submitted by Steve Griffin