

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Council Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2009
8:15 AM to 11:45 AM
St. Mary of the Hills

Attendees: **Worship: Beth Belesky, Dan Greig, Annette Kelly, Mary Bomarito, Darlene Kolpasky, Mark Misch, Deacon Gene, Christine McGowan (Secretary)**
Christian Service: Mike Simon, Alex Kiwior, Claire Bono, Bob Sheldrick
Education: Jim Soisson, Peggy Casing, Linda Griffith
Fellowship: Margaret Sheldrick, Mary Patrella, Joe Bono, Sharon Kowalski, Laura Corrion, Jerry Richter, Frank Kern, John Hundiak (President)
Finance: Mark Gathof, Sue Thorn, Marlene DeBrosse, Bob Jackson (Vice President)
Pontiac Vicariate: Mark Joyce, Mary Margaret Brosch
Fr. Stan

Agenda

Welcome and Fellowship	All	8:15 – 8:30
Prayer Service/ Formation	All	8:30 – 9:00
Opening Comments	Fr. Stan	9:00 – 9:05
Announcements	All	9:05 – 9:10
Commission Meetings	Commissions	9:10 – 9:40
Break	All	9:40 – 9:45
Welcome and Introductions	J. Hundiak	9:45 – 9:50
Old Business	J. Hundiak	9:50 – 9:55
Christmas Season Breakout	J. Hundiak	9:55 – 10:30
1) What are you enjoying?		
2) What is stressing you?		
3) What can we do as a parish to provide support during the season?		
Marriage Ministry Update	Fr. Stan	10:30 – 10:35
Marketing Ministry Update	S. Thorn	10:35 – 10:40
CSA Update	B. Jackson	10:40 – 10:45
Christmas Invitations	Fellowship Commission	10:45 – 10:50
Volunteering Breakout	J. Hundiak/ L. Corrion	10:50 – 11:25
1) How did you become a volunteer?		
2) Why do you stay involved?		
3) What will you commit to doing to bring in another volunteer?		
Critical Commission Reports	Commission Reps	11:25 – 11:40
Closing Prayer	All	11:40 – 11:45

Additional Information

Special notes:

Prayer Service/ Formation	All	8:30 – 9:00
<p>1. The prayer service and formation focused on an Attitude of Gratitude and the Examen Prayer of St. Ignatius. The group reviewed the technique of the Examen, and also discussed how we practice our attitude of gratitude in our parish and in our lives. Things such as the Good News at the end of Mass celebrate and thank God for birthdays, special occasions, and accomplishments. We are also called to not only give thanks to God and each other, but we also must learn how to accept gratitude from others. By allowing others to express their gratitude to us, we validate their thoughts and actions.</p>		
Opening Comments	Fr. Stan	9:00 – 9:05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gratitude is important. I keep a gratitude journal, and each day I reflect on 5 things I am grateful for. One of those things that I am grateful is this parish, but more importantly, I am grateful for the PEOPLE that make up the parish and make it the wonderful place it is. Our joint meeting will begin in the gym after brief commission meetings at 9:45am. 		
Announcements	All	9:05 – 9:10
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Commission Meetings	Commissions	9:10 – 9:40
<p>See attachments</p>		
Break	All	9:40 – 9:45
Welcome and Introductions	J. Hundiak	9:45 – 9:50
Old Business	J. Hundiak	9:50 – 9:55
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2009 minutes approved. All commission minutes will be distributed with the council meeting minutes. 		

- **2010 Volunteer Fair – A Heart for Ministry (February 6th/7th)**
 - A letter of invitation will be sent out to all parishioners.
 - Speakers will offer an invitation after all Masses that weekend. Each speaker will give a personal testimony and the reasons to volunteer. There are many different ways to volunteer – each with varying time commitments. There is something for everyone!
 - The Fair will have 5 sections, one per Commission. Each Commission needs to represent their ministries with 2-3 people per Mass. There should be printed materials for people to review the different ministries.
 - There will be forms for people to sign up for whatever ministry they choose. These forms will also have a section to list someone's skills, gifts, and talents, so that they can be matched with a ministry if they want to help, but do not know what would be a good fit.
 - On the following weekend, February 13th/14th, these forms will be collected and presented with the offertory as we give our hearts to ministry. As we prepare for Lent, we give of our hearts.
 - We need volunteers! Only a small portion of the parish volunteers do all of the wonderful activities we have to offer at St. Mary!
- **Why do you volunteer?**
 - "It's a break from "regular" life to allow me to explore a new/ different side of myself."
 - "It's a way to give back, when I can't give financially right now."
 - "It's a way to make a difference."
 - "I met a lot of different people."
 - "Someone (Fr. Stan, Fr. Strain, someone from the commissions) asked to me volunteer."
 - "I want to be a part of this warm and welcoming parish. It's why I joined the parish, and I want to be a part of it."
 - "It's my way of giving back. I wouldn't go to the theatre and not pay for my tickets. I can't receive all the great things here without giving back."
 - "It's a non-threatening way to network for the unemployed."
- **Why do you stay involved?**
 - "It's gratifying, both at that moment, and on an ongoing basis."
 - "It helps me keep a connection to the people in the parish."
 - "I want to always be a part of this parish."
- **What are we willing to do to encourage more volunteers?**
 - Each Commission will have one volunteer to be a speaker after Mass (see above).
 - Each Commission will bring their ideas for their tables at the ministry fair for January's council meeting.

Marriage Ministry Update

Fr. Stan

10:30 – 10:35

- There are many new ministries: Women's Bible Study, Little Rock Scripture Study, Women's Fellowship, St. Monica's Club for Widows, and the Marriage Ministry.
- Marriage Ministry is taking shape. We are focusing on 3 things right now, with more to come:
 - Prepare-Enrich – for Engaged Couples
 - The engaged couple will take a survey and then meet with a mentor couple 6 times before and 2 times after the wedding.
 - We are in need of more mentor couples. Ideally, we need about 6 more couples. These couples should be in a happy relationship, married for at least 5 years, and have a willingness to share their experience. All training will be provided to them.
 - 10 Great Dates – for Married Couples
 - The plan is to do 5 sessions (2 "dates" per session). The evening will consist of a group session/ topic and then each couple will go on a date, building on the topic discussed. Babysitting will be provided.
 - Anniversaries – for Married Couples
 - There will be a special celebration at the 11am Mass during April. This will honor the anniversaries for the year. The names of the couples will be published in the bulletin and there will be a celebration after Mass.
- The Marriage Ministry also consists of other areas, but the team has not formalized plans around these areas: 1) Marriage 911 for troubled marriages; 2) Separated, but wanting to reconcile; 3) Second marriages with children.

Marketing Ministry Update**S. Thorn****10:35 – 10:40**

- **Ideas from the Marketing Ministry:**
 - **Social Networking – Put St. Mary’s on Facebook. A great place for the church to get the word out to the public. Could broadcast functions, parishioner’s deaths, prayer requests. It could be extended to Twitter or LinkedIn. Dan Greig is working on it.**
 - **Gather email addresses. Ask either in the bulletin and/or like we did with the information cards. It needs to be followed up.**
 - **Investigate other places to sell tickets, or other items.**
 - **Bring the black tri-stand out of hiding- Judy is checking with Chris.**
 - **Return the overhead for announcements up to the choir quiet time.**
 - **Announce the web site @ Mass. Urge people to use it for more information. Maybe as an overhead as the announcements are being read.**
 - **Do a scavenger hunt on the web site. A certain number of winners could win a 20th anniversary shirt.**
 - **Utilize and promote the bulletin boards next to the gym. Take the schedules off the monitor except for the present day and use the bulletin boards for all the schedules.**
 - **The monitor needs to be quick. People are not standing around reading it, so the events need to pop up quickly.**
 - **Gathering information and a template for people to use for their functions. This would include who to contact to advertize and the template would help them write their articles.**
 - **Bulletin. Gerry Turgeon spent time with Judy to offer his expertise. He has been in the advertising business for a long time and has written newsletters for major corporations.**
 - **Articles need to be shorter. Limit articles to 50 words?**
 - **Need to have more special interest stories. Parishioner’s deaths, cancer free patients. By chance, Marlene brought the bulletin from St. Martin. It was very short and the articles were very short too.**
- **Gerry is contacting area churches to see how they promote their activities. See if we can form a networking unit so we can promote other churches’ activities.**
 - **St. Andrews**
 - **St. Irenaues**
 - **St. Anastasia**
 - **Sacred Heart**
 - **St. Lawrence**
- **Gerry and Mark are working on a template so people will have instruction on how to write their articles.**
- **Mark will contact Michigan Catholic and the Archdiocese of Detroit to see how to advertise in their publications. Sue will contact Rochester Papers and the Troy Times.**

CSA Update**B. Jackson****10:40 – 10:45**

- **We have a new CSA Chair – Charles (Bud) Biegan. Former chairs and the Finance Commission will meet with Bud to get him started. Welcome, Bud! Thank you for volunteering!**

Christmas Season Breakout**J. Hundiak****10:50 – 11:25**

- What are you enjoying about the season?
 - “Being with family.”
 - “Advent by Candlelight puts me in the spirit of Christmas right away.”
 - “Christmas Mass is my favorite.”
 - “Caroling at Mercy Belbrook. I love seeing the delight of the people who live there.”
 - “My family has a Circle of Gratitude. We join in a circle and share what we are thankful for.”
 - “The colors of the season.”
- What stresses you?
 - “Trying to make schedules work for family gatherings.”
 - “Too much to do, and not enough time.”
 - “Financial constraints.”
 - “First Christmas without a loved one due to death, divorce, children leaving home...”
- How do we make sure parishioners are supported?
 - Acknowledge the loss of the family member. Don’t be afraid if you don’t know what to say. Just remember the loss is there with a personal note in a Christmas card or a phone call.
 - NOTE: The Funeral Ministry needs help! Please contact Judy K if you can volunteer.
 - If someone is in financial need:
 - Referrals to St. Vincent de Paul, Neighborhood House
 - Giving Tree, St. Michael’s Food Pantry, Gleaners, etc.
 - St. Mary provides a place for people to express all of their feelings and emotions – at the Liturgy, fellowship, and giving opportunities. For many people, St. Mary’s IS their Christmas.

Critical Commission Reports**All****11:25 – 11:40**

- Worship – no new critical report.
- Education –
 - Need GIFT volunteers. Please see Peggy Casing if you can volunteer.
 - There are many new ministries: Women’s Bible Study, Little Rock Scripture Study, Women’s Fellowship.
 - The pre-school is restructuring to have 2 programs: a 2-day program and a 3-day program.
- Christian Service –
 - Blood drive was a success! 71 units of blood donated.
 - We need a new SOS chair (or multiple chairs to share the task)
- Fellowship – Birthday Party for Jesus – December 18th.
- Finance – All of our bills were paid for the year, but we are \$20K under our income from last year. We are still short of our CSA goal as well.
- Vicariate News – The Archdiocese of Detroit will be divided into four regions, each presided over by

a Bishop or Episcopal Vicar and containing four vicariates. Since there are currently 18 vicariates, four will need to be combined into two in order to reach 16 total. The question yet to be decided is whether to use a corridor or block model for the regions. The corridor model facilitates resources sharing between urban, suburban and rural parishes and honors the current structure. The block model would make Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck into one region and fill the other three regions in a geographically efficient manner. Archbishop Vigneron will make the decision, probably before the next Presbyteral Council meeting in December. The makeup of the Pontiac Area Vicariate will not be affected under either model.

Walk-ins/ Announcements

All

- Christmas Choral Concert – December 12th (tonight), 7pm
- Mass for the Unemployed – December 14th, 7pm
- How do we be more cohesive as a council and commissions? Can we carry one theme for the entire parish? GIFT is a 6-year cycle, beginning in September, can we join in that theme and extend it to all activities?
 - Follow-up to occur in the January council meeting to build on this year's GIFT theme – the Creed. We will add this to the Joint Meeting in June to decide on next year's theme.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Stan

11:40 – 11:45

Additional Information