

Education Commission: minutes from the April 16, 2016 meeting:

Present: Peggy Casing, Mary Davis, Sam Guerra, Matt Ongcapin, (youth) Suzie Phillips, and Meghan Schuler,

Absent: Kim Boismier Denis Naeger, Clem Valot, and Tom Wietchy.

SYNOD

We started with a discussion about the upcoming AOD Synod. All members of the Education commission are encouraged to attend the May 21, 2016 meeting that will be taking the place of commission/council meetings. It is the understanding of the group that there will be a council meeting prior to a 9:00AM meeting with all parish leadership (where the entire focus will be the synod). A report of the discussion will be conveyed at the synod. This is the opportunity for feedback that is specifically from parish leadership.

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

Sam emailed Fr. about making presentations at Mass, but hasn't been able to make a connection. Discussion about the creation/distribution of business card size handouts featuring the social media info followed. Putting them in the pews seems like a good idea. Brief announcement at Masses (or shortened version of the presentation that was given to council/commissions) would be good in May because of Sam's schedule, and making connections before the business of summer. Matthew suggested having a slide put on the PowerPoint screen for viewing before Mass. It was agreed that that is a good idea. How often or what Masses should be used for this initiative? It seems like one weekend and all Masses was agreed upon?

A discussion about what photos "make it" to the Facebook page followed. The consensus was that timeliness is of the greatest importance, with a focus on things that affect parish life. Sam wants to meet with Chris D. to discuss how pictures are selected, etc. Suzie suggested a focus on promoting "following" our page at this point, since we don't seem to have a flawless system for submitting/actual posting right now.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

Suzie attended an active shooter training. Following, are her notes. (...although, hers were formatted much nicer!!! This is a scan using text recognition.)

Pontiac Area Vicariate Council Meeting: 4/5/2016

Guest Speaker: Sheriff Michael Bouchard

Topic: Active Shooter Awareness

Look for video on the website: oaklandcountysheriff.com

Sheriff Bouchard has been involved in counter-terrorism efforts since 1999, including partnering and travel to work with multiple other groups around the country

The need is to be AWARE, not afraid, but aware

Shooters look for "soft targets"

He mentioned the incident a few years ago at another Rochester Hills church. It was a personal dispute, and one person was killed, but many others were injured out windows

The overall decision in an active shooter situation is: Run, Hide, or Fight

RUN: if you can

HIDE: only if you can't get out

- o Hide means barricade yourself somewhere, silence your cell phone and be quiet

- o One thing to know about active shooters is: time matters

- Police usually arrive in 3 - 4 minutes

- Usually the incident is over in 6 minutes

- So, if you can hide for 5 - 10 minutes, it will likely be over

FIGHT is the last result

- o If you are found by the shooter, or if you are trapped

- o Look for a weapon (fire extinguisher, etc.)

- o If there is a group of you, plan how you can work together

An organization can make a plan ahead of time:

Segregate areas so shooter cannot move freely throughout the building

What are the building weaknesses?

- o At Sandy Hook, there was a visual/swipe entrance requirement, but the shooter just

shot out a glass window next to the door and walked in

Renovation time is a good time to think about barrier doors, perhaps operated by a button, like

a fire door is

During activities and building use:

Look for unusual behavior in a person (like wearing a winter coat in the summer, coming into church wearing a backpack, etc.

When somebody sets something down and walks away, that should be a big red flag! Tell the authorities.

SUSIE PHILLIPS/ NOTES

There are laws about concealed weapons (need to verify these specifics):

Can't bring them in to a church with over 1500 capacity (by state law); under 1500, any building

owner can make their own rule based on private property rights, and it should be posted

Then there are the Open Carry/ CPL statutes: gets complicated.

- o If it is prohibited in a church under 1500 to have concealed carry, can still bring a

weapon in under "open" carry laws, unless posted and prohibited under property rights

The entity (building owner/user) can give a person or a group the right to carry a weapon for building security

Instead of focusing on who can carry and what you can carry, it is recommended that an organization concentrate on planning their emergency response

One advantage we have here over Belgium and France, where there were the recent lethal attacks

The Detroit area (even the U.S.) doesn't have isolated neighborhoods which have become

dangerous and self-governing, and where the police and fire don't go

Here neighborhoods are more accessible to the community, and more integrated - there is less

likelihood and possibility of isolation and harboring active shooter planning

Schools and organizations are encouraged to have an alarm for an active shooter emergency, and it should be different than the fire alarm

Don't want people running into the hallway to escape, like they would for a fire - the shooter could be right there

Could use a verbal alarm such as " Lockdown! Lockdown!"

SUSIE

A discussion about if staff/volunteers undergo training (especially those involved in child care, GIFT, MSP, Preschool, Children's Liturgy, etc.) and the general consensus was that more could and should be done in this area! Currently, GIFT has had fire drills in the past, but to our knowledge, other than preschool, NO other groups have conducted a drill. Suggestions were made about the information for lectors being read (found in the ambo). A mention of where the exits are, and any other important safety information might be helpful. It was also mentioned that there doesn't seem to be a plan to address a flood of people fleeing the parking lot and emergency vehicles are trying to arrive. It seems that more should be done on this topic! Lock down drills are advised, along with the tools needed for an actual lockdown (PA system?)

In a related discussion, it might be good for there to be "security" folks (easily identifiable) on the evening of the Rochester Fireworks, since we'll be conducting the Night Fever opportunity (the building

will be open from about 10:30 until midnight for conversation, counseling, confession... following the format that was used at The Shrine of the Little Flower, during the Woodward Dream Cruise.

SACRAMENTS CELEBRATED AT THE EASTER VIGIL

Peggy reported that sixteen people celebrated sacraments at the Vigil, and Fr. Stan handled the juggling of all of the facets of each fabulously. It was a great celebration.

DEPARTMENTAL / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Suzie reported for the Evangelization Committee. She reported that the recent parish mission was a success. Attendance was around 200 people the first night. The numbers were smaller the following nights, but she heard that that is the norm.

Suzie and 7 others went to St. Charles Lwanga to make further connections with them. (This is the parish that the people of St. Mary's supported through their donations, allowing Richard Lane to present his missing to their community) It is hoped that we could start a "sister parish" type of arrangement.

AGAPE

Meghan mentioned that the most recent Mass and Bash held at St. Mary's was very well attended, with 40-50 young adults in attendance. Other Mass and Bash events are planned, including one in June (the 11th), where high school seniors (recently graduated) will be invited.

REPORT FROM PRESCHOOL



Preschool News

Parish Council Education Commission April 2016

This month we have been accepting registrations for the fall. We have most of the four-year-old classes filled with children currently in the program as three-year-olds. There are a few places available for children new to the program in one of the afternoon fours classes.

The three year old afternoon class takes a little longer to fill as parents prefer morning classes. We are asking the surrounding parishes to put information about the preschool in their church bulletins and we are venturing into social media to provide information about the preschool. We plan to be as proactive as possible in making parents aware of the opportunities we can offer to three-year-old preschoolers.

Our annual Fun Run fund raiser proved to be very successful, raising enough money to buy a new teeter totter for the playground. The old one was broken beyond repair.

We have to cover the cost of a playground inspection when we add any new items so we will put in the teeter totter and have the area inspected.

The Fun Run this year also helped us to provide the children with new learning materials.

As part of our work on animal habitats, we are taking the four-year-old classes to Sterling Heights Nature Center. They will have a tour of the Nature Center and learn about different animals and their homes. They will be able to see and touch toads and snakes.

March and April are busy for the three year old classes with visits to the Rochester Hills Fire Station where they learn about keeping safe. We also invite a visit a local dental hygienist to the preschool so that the children can learn about the importance of keeping their teeth healthy and clean.

Lent and Easter are a special time of year and we worked with the children, making crosses for Jesus and promising to do something that Jesus would like. The children had very creative ideas about how they could help at home or ways they could be kind to their friends and family. Although we had to remind them about their promises sometimes, they really tried hard and we put their promises on the wall in the hallway so they could see exactly what they promised every day. We visited church once a week to say a prayer during Lent and it is encouraging to see how the children have learned to walk quietly in church and pay respect in God's House.

Carol Scott,
Preschool Director

HOLY FAMILY
No report

ACTION ITEM(S)
None noted

Next meeting: May 21, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted, Peggy Casing