

SMOTH Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – 12Apr14

Attendees:

Parish Council Role	Name	Present?
Pastor	Fr. Stan Ulman	Y
President & At Large Representative	Richard Danforth	N
Vice President & Education Commission Representative	Janet Gerhard	Y
Education Commission	Peggy Casing	N
Secretary - At Large	Ken Corrion	Y
At Large	Curt Benham	N
Christian Service Commission Representative	Mark Joyce	Y
	Sr. Grace Keane	N
Evangelization Commission Representative	Susie Phillips	Y
	George Philips	Y
Fellowship Commission Representative	Marlene DeBrosse	N
Finance Council Representative	Mark Suwinski	N
Stewardship Commission Representative	Carol Gunther	Y
	Andrew Fadanelli	N
Worship Commission Representative	John Hundiak	Y
	Beth Belesky	Y
HFRS Representative	Jennifer Neill	N
PAV Representative	Joan Cashman	Y
	Denis Naeger	N
Seniors Representative	Virginia McMahan	Y
Youth Representative	TBD	N
Other Attendees	Thomas Kubacki	N
	Forrest Cooper	N
	Jay Fedewa	Y

Opening Prayer – Joan Cashman

Old Business

- 1) Prior Meeting Minutes – Janet Gerhard
 - a. 12Mar14 Meeting Minutes approved.
- 2) Council Elections / Selections for 2014 – Ken Corrion
 - a. Voting for our next term's officers will occur in June.
 - b. At Large Members – Forrest Cooper would like to be our new 1 year term member starting this fall. We need to identify a new 2 year term member. Janet will ask Denis Naeger to create a bulletin message soliciting interest in this position.

- 3) Strategic Drivers – Selection of Top Concerns – Ken Corrion
 - a. All attendees at this PPC meeting voted on the top 10 Concerns selected from prior meetings. The following Concerns are listed in order of highest to lowest importance as determined by their votes:
 - i. We have parishioners with a lot to offer who aren't as involved as they should be (8 votes).
 - ii. We let most aspects of our culture “evolve” rather than deliberately creating a parish culture to support our vision (5 votes).
 - iii. New parishioners are not integrated effectively (3 votes).
 - iv. We do not have processes that provide continuous feedback from parishioners about our performance (3 votes).
 - v. The parish doesn't play a significant role in the lives of our parishioners (3 votes).
 - vi. We don't regularly solicit our parishioners for feedback on possible improvements (0 votes).
 - vii. We have less than optimal space utilization (0 votes).
 - viii. People are not engaged in the life of the parish, or our office, as I would hope (0 votes).
 - ix. Other churches are drawing parishioners away from us (0 votes).
 - x. Not every parishioner fully understands our vision (0 votes).
- 4) Parish Mission: Hungers of the Human Heart – Beth Belesky
 - a. We received a lot of positive feedback on our successful mission. We are very grateful to those who made this a success.
 - b. Several hundred people attended the Mission and fellowship gatherings each night.
 - c. Approximately \$4500 was collected during the mission services. This will be donated to Fr. Jack along with \$1000 from SMOTH.
 - d. A couple hundred people “signed-in” at the mission. We collected several prayer requests which will be converted to future “Prayers of the Faithful”. Some people also asked to be contacted by the parish.
 - e. Jay Fedawa recommends having Richard Lane for next year's speaker. Jay will forward information on Richard's “Standing on the Rock of Faith” ministries.
 - f. SMOTH's pattern for missions has been conducting a 4 day mission every other year. The alternate years would consist of a 1 night event. We should discuss this format at a future meeting and develop a plan for our future. Suggestions for other speakers are welcome.

New Business

- 1) CSA Kick-off May 17-18 – n/a
 - a. No discussion occurred.
- 2) Declaration of Terms of Each Council Member – Ken Corrion
 - a. All PPC members in attendance provided the Month / Year they joined the PPC. Ken will contact the PPC members not in attendance to determine when they joined the PPC. This information will be used to determine when each person's term will expire. A summary will be distributed prior to our next meeting.

Commission Updates

- 1) Finance – Fr. Stan
 - a. Budgets are being developed for our next fiscal year.
 - b. We are \$40k below budgeted income for this year which creates challenges for next year. Rather than making cuts we are trying to increase our income via the following:
 - i. We are seeking matching funds from employers (ex. The Mott Foundation triples donations made by individuals). AOD has a list of all employers that offer matching grants. A link will be made for SMOTH's web page to help utilize this opportunity.
 - ii. We will encourage electronic giving. The typical active parishioner misses 12 masses at SMOTH each year. These envelopes often don't come back to SMOTH.
 1. We should further determine if special collections can be made electronically too.
 2. Electronic giving needs to be communicated so other parishioners don't view this negatively when they don't see auto-donators place something in the offertory basket during mass. We want to show solidarity with others who are contributing with weekly envelopes. Some parishes offer plastic cards to electronic donors which can symbolically be placed in the collection basket each week.
 - iii. We need to involve more people in the activities of the parish.
 - iv. We need to stress Tithing, Stewardship and Giving as Gratitude not giving out of need.
- 2) Evangelization – Jay Fedewa
 - a. A group of people have been contacting our inactive parishioners. Eighty-three people have been contacted so far. Ten of these people accepted a copy of Matthew Kelley's *Rediscovering Catholicism* book. Thirty-nine messages were left on answering machines. Much interesting feedback was received. We want to make this an annual event.
 - b. We are investigating ways to use technology to keep in touch with people.
 - c. We would like time on next month's agenda to review the Christ Life Evangelization program with the Parish Council and Commissions. Five to ten minutes will be allocated in the agenda.
 - d. A bulletin article is being developed to invite parishioners to attend our next PPC meeting.
 - e. Our Library now exists and is on display in the Narthex.
- 3) Christian Service – Mark Joyce
 - a. We reviewed Catholic Social teachings and had a lot of good discussion.
 - b. Interfaith Center for Racial Justice is planning a workshop on African American Muslims. We would like SMOTH to cover the \$40 fee for each participant. Approximately 10-12 people are expected. The motion for SMOTH to cover these expenses was approved by the PPC.
 - c. We are looking for help with St Michael's Food Pantry on the 1st Saturday of each month. This requires only 15 minutes after 5:00 mass.

- d. The 15 Minute Ministry – we are looking for people and needs that could be met within a 15 minute commitment. This may be a way to draw more people into our ministry programs. Each commission should identify ideas for this ministry including details (day, time, place, what to do, etc). This would be an on-going activity and offering of opportunities. We must determine how to best implement and coordinate this activity.
 - i. Woodside Church has a wall of ministry opportunities that people go to find existing opportunities and for sign-up. We could consider something similar or perhaps do it on line. We would like to improve visibility of all our opportunities.
 - ii. Suggestion - create a bucket of badges for “St. Mary Volunteer”. These could be worn so visitors know who to ask for assistance.
- 4) Education –Janet Gerhard
 - a. We are reviewing our High School programs to ensure kids are not lost after their Confirmation. We will also review how other parishes address this since no formal program currently exists after 8th grade here at SMOTH.
 - b. The Agape program is used for the older college age group.
- 5) Fellowship – Virginia McMahon
 - a. There was a small turnout for today’s meeting. We reviewed questions on Salt & Light.
- 6) Worship – John Hundiak / Beth Belesky
 - a. We completed a review of our recent Mission.
 - b. Several Spring related events are coming up.
 - c. April 27th – Deacon Marcin Chelczuk’s will celebrate his last mass with us prior to returning to New York. We would like to do something special for him such as having cake & coffee after 11:00 mass. We will ask Laura Corrion to coordinate this event. The KofC will also present him with a chalice.
 - d. We need to determine what is expected / needed to make our Parish’s 25th anniversary mass special. This may include recognizing our founding members. Other suggestions are welcome. We also need to identify the date for our Liturgical Celebration of 25 years. The Fellowship Committee should be consulted for other events related to our anniversary celebrations.
- 7) Stewardship – Carol Gunther
 - a. A Ministry Handbook was developed by Laura Corrion to promote our ministry opportunities. It now includes a description of what SMOTH has to offer by Commission and will be included in the Welcome Packets given to new Parishioners and offered at our Stewardship Fair this fall. This will be distributed with these meeting minutes. Feedback should be sent to Laura.
 - b. We reviewed the Salt & Light questions which are geared towards Stewardship. We as a Parish need to be more inviting and effective at getting new people involved. We should try to get everyone signed-up for just one thing. This may be something they consider they want changed.

Other Groups

- 1) Seniors – Virginia McMahon
 - a. Two new members joined the Senior Fellowship group this past month. .
- 2) Youth – No representative.
 - a. We need to determine how to find a Youth representative. This should be included in the bulletin article for identifying potential members. Susie will review this topic with Chris Kozlowski.
- 3) Pontiac Area Vicariate – Joan Cashman / Denis Naeger
 - a. Agape presented their new format to show how continuing interest and involvement goes beyond campus ministries.
 - b. SMOTH did a great job hosting the meeting with St Andrew's PPC.
 - c. We reviewed the use of technology in our parishes.
 - d. May 6th will be a presentation by Bethany.
 - e. Priests of the Vicariate are reviewing budgets and projects of the Vicariate.
 - f. A new Vicar is needed since Fr Stan is term limited.
- 4) HFRS – No representative

Other Announcements

1. A new mass schedule is planned for our Easter celebrations this year.
2. Prayer intentions – Judy Rhoads' Mother-in-Law passed away this past week.
3. Opening Prayer at next meeting – Beth Belesky.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Stan

Next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting:

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 @ 7:00 pm. Location = HFRS South