

St. Mary of the Hills
Parish Pastoral council
November 15, 2014

Present: Anna Marchase, Karen Dudek, Fr. Stan, Susie Phillips, Virginia McMahon, Forrest Cooper, Samantha Guerra, Marlene DeBrosse, Janet Gerhard, Richard Danfoth, Mark Joyce, Curt Benham, Joan Cashman

Opening prayer: Richard Danforth

After discussion and vote, the decision was made to continue the opening prayer at the PPC meetings. Opening prayer sets the reflective and spiritual tone before the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the October PPC meeting were approved as written.

ChristLife update: The Information night was successful. The volunteer training will be held on November 22, 2014 at St. Mary (later changed to Holy Family Regional School). The program will be a full day with participants learning the details of the program, watching films and practicing group discussions. The hospitality and greeters for the program do not need to attend the training session. Soon, money budgeted for the program will be spent for purchasing food, books and supplies.

CLT update:

The sound system in the gym is now completed. The next phase of the project will be the kitchen renovation which will be started in February 2016. Bob Jackson will be speaking at all masses about the ongoing CLT campaign in hopes that we have further participation for the holidays.

Parish Philosophy:

Live Learn, Serve is our new parish philosophy. The philosophy is now printed on the parish bulletin but will be more prominent in future bulletins with additional color. The website will also reflect the new philosophy. The philosophy, Live, Learn, Serve, will also be included on emails. Further discussion should occur on how we use this philosophy to reflect SMOTH.

Miscellaneous:

To address parishioners who give to SMOTH using electronic funds or credit cards, tokens will be available at the welcome center to be placed in the basket during collection.

NEW BUSINESS:

AOD/Vicariate/Parish Survey

The AOD Parish Survey was reviewed by the PPC. The data revealed the following:

- More than half of our parishioners are outside the parish boundaries.
- Our parish households have significantly increased.

- Areas of lower scores for our parish under category “Mission Priorities” includes: Keeping tuition affordable for all Catholics, Reaching out to inactive Catholics and reaching out to non-Catholics.
- Vocations is an area of concern for our parishioners.
- The parishioners who completed the survey were those who are actively involved in the parish.
- The top 5 concerns facing the Catholic Church in Southeast Michigan include”
 - Shortage of priests/decline in vocations
 - Engaging teens and young adults in parish life
 - Society in general is less religious
 - Priest sexual abuse
 - Lack of participation in the sacraments

The results of the survey led to active discussion within the PPC. The results of the survey will be used for future strategic and program planning.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Please see the attached reports for details.

The next PPC meeting will be a joint meeting of the Commissions and Council on December 13, 2014 at 7:45am.