

St. Mary of the Hills
Parish Pastoral Council
January 17, 2015
“St. Mary of the Hills: Live, Learn, Serve”

Present: Clem Valot, Denis Naeger, Forrest Cooper, Mark Suwinski, Joan Cashman, Susie Phillips, Marlene DeBrossee, Carol Gunther, Mark Joyce, Richard Danforth, Fr. Stan Ulman, Janet Gerhard, Samantha Guerra, Ann Marchese, Karen Dudek.

OLD BUSINESS

The meeting minutes of December 2014 were approved as written.

Council Meeting Dates

The dates of the PPC meeting were discussed and approved for the following dates: February 21, 2015, March 14, 2015, April 25, 2015, May 16, 2015 and June 20, 2015.

ChristLife

An update on the ChristLife program was provided by Susie Phillips. There are 70 people registered for the Thursday evening session at St. Mary of the Hills. The Wednesday morning session at St. Irenaeus has 40 people registered. The registration is being handled online by Eventbrite. Approximately one-third of the registrations have been handled manually and two-thirds of the registrations have been handled through Eventbrite. Additional assistance is needed with the catered meals in February. Marlene has sent out a Sign Up Genius notice for Confirmation students to assist with the meals and obtain service hours. Mark Joyce will be handling the hospitality.

CSA Update

Forrest Cooper provided an update on CSA. We have exceeded our commitment by \$100. We will no longer do any advertising in the parish bulletin. We generally obtain 98% of the funds that are pledged. The planning for next years CSA has already begun and a potential chairperson will be approached by Fr. Stan in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS:

Valentine’s Day Romantic Evening for Two

Denis Naeger is coordinating the annual Valentine Day event, Romantic Evening For Two, on Saturday February 7, 2015. There will be appetizers, wine, pop, buffet dinner and presentation by Karen and Dr. Tim Hogan. Denis reported that our goals is to have 50 registered couples and he felt that this goal was going to be achieved.

Lenten Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

Operation Rice Bowl was chosen as our Almsgiving this year. This years outreach will be global instead of the local focus in the past. Operation Rice Bowl will be promoted in the bulletin and via DVD during mass starting Ash Wednesday on February 18, 2015. The weekly commitment will be communicated in the bulletin. Also, as in the past, ideas for prayer, fasting and almsgiving will be communicated to parishioners via the weekly bulletin.

SMOTH support of Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT)

Joan Cashman gave a history of the formation of CCRT in 2004. CCRT is sponsored and funded by the Pontiac Area Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Detroit. SMOTH has always been a strong supporter of CCRT. Issues have surfaced lately regarding how CCRT funds are directed and how the funds get worked into the budget. There are also legislative issues regarding the allocation of funding to pay employees that are complicating the CCRT issues. There is talk of Christian Charities of Southeast (CCSE) absorbing CCRT as part of their organization. The council felt that CCRT can respond more readily to the needs of the community if it remains part of the Pontiac Area Vicariate. We hope that all parishes continue their support of CCRT. Joan will continue to update the PPC on this issue.

Christmas Evaluation

The goal of our Christmas mass was to reach out to all parishioners and guests and make them feel welcome. The members of the PPC felt that this goal was met. The following was the feedback from the PPC members:

- A welcoming and friendly atmosphere was provided
- One visitor commented that the 10:00 pm mass was “most welcoming”
- Lots of participation from parish members
- Sound system was perfect
- Awning provided warmth and protection
- The books were well received by parishioners and guests
- Books were not left in pews
- Children participation in distributing books was very welcoming
- Children’s liturgy is always a special event
- ChristLife presentation timely and very engaging
- Decorations were beautiful
- Total collections were \$69,000
- Special Christmas bulletin was great idea
- Have bulletins from weekend mass available for guests next year
- Perhaps have greeters *in the church* prior to mass for next year
- How to stop the people leaving *before* communion was discussed

Announcements

Submit to Laura Corrion the current members of all commissions by February 21, 2015.

Submit budgets with requested dollars and priorities to Chris Kozlowski by the next PPC meeting on February 21, 2015.

Commission/Committee Reports

Youth

Samantha Guerra stated that the St. Mary Youth Group (SMYG) will be discussing the formation of a panel of speakers for our youth on how to relate our faith to real life situations. Also the use

of social media to communicate with our youth at SMOTH and other Catholic youth is being explored. A game night for the youth of our vicariate is in the planning phases.

Please see the individual commission minutes for details.

Our next PPC meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 7:45 am at SMOTH.