

**St. Mary of the Hills  
Pastoral Parish Council  
March 14, 2015**

**“St Mary of the Hills: Live, Learn, Serve”**

Present: attendance at the meeting was not recorded.

NEW BUSINESS

**Catholic Community Response Team (CCRT)**

Barb Williams presented an informative overview of CCRT. She started her presentation with some concerning statistics:

- 50% of *children* live in poverty and 36% of people *live at* the poverty level in Pontiac
- Median income in Rochester is \$78,000 and the median income in Pontiac is \$26,000
- The archdiocese continues to decrease funding to CCRT each year.

Barbs powerpoint presentation continued to answer the following questions : Why was CCRT was formed: Whom do they serve: Funding: How CCRT helps the community: What can Parishes do for CCRT: What CCRT can do for the Parishes: What we, personally, can do for CCRT. The Powerpoint presentation is included with the minutes.

**Changing Lives Together (CLT) update**

Bob Jackson gave an update on the progress of renovations from CLT. The canopy and the new sound system are installed. The pews in the chapel have been refurbished. We have one year left on program contributions and pledges that were made. There are 3 items left for which the contributions will be allocated to. The kitchen renovation design plans are currently underway. Construction will start in January 2016 with completion anticipated by May 2016. Funds are also allocated toward HFRS technology and will be donated soon. The final project will be capital expenditure for the roof and HVAC system for the church.

Many contributions from parishioners for CLT are donated at the end of the year. No additional efforts have been made toward soliciting existing parishioners to contribute to CLT. However, Bob and Denis Naeger have attended the newcomers meeting in attempt to obtain pledges.

**Calls to Inactive Parishioners**

In the past, Fellowship Commission made calls to inactive parishioners. They attempted to obtain the reason the family became inactive, however many of the calls resulted in leaving a voice mail message. When possible, the commission collected prayer requests and offered to send the Rediscovering Christ book to the family. Bob Jackson reported that there are a huge number of families who are registered but do not contribute financially to the parish. The following statistics were presented:

1,600 registered parishioners  
431 make no financial contribution  
525 families contribute less than \$500 per year  
343 families contribute less than \$250 per year

Inactive parishioners need to be contacted again. Responsibility needs to be assigned to a group or commission to make these calls. The PPC members were asked to discuss this with their commissions and the agenda item will be discussed at the next PPC meeting in April.

**New Council Member:**

We are soliciting one at large council member in for June 2015. Meghan Schuler has expressed an interest however has not made a final decision. She would be a valuable asset to the PPC.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes of the February 2015 minutes were approved as written.

**Christlife:**

The feedback from over 100 participants were favorable. There were many people who were touched by this program and the feedback indicated the program was well run and considered a huge success. The program participants were mainly parishioners, which was expected. The Following Christ program will begin on April 16, 2015 and half of the current attendees will attend. The following Christ program will offer dessert only, which will be less costly and labor intensive. In September, the final session, Following Christ will be offered. The cycle for this program is January, April and September and will start over in January 2016. The program is designed initially for current parishioners and they become “ambassadors” for the program. The ambassadors will then start to recruit inactive or non parishioners to the program the following year. The program is designed to reap the benefits of evangelization in the second and third years of the program.

**Vision/Philosophy-"St Mary of the Hills: Live, Learn, Serve"**

This issue was tabled until the April meeting.

**Strategic Concerns/Drivers:**

This issue was tabled until the April meeting.

**Operation Rice Bowl:**

This year we are supporting an International program of Operation Rice Bowl. The program will eventually evolve into an “envelope” system instead of the cardboard bowl that has historically been associated with the program. The BJazz Vespers Band will be performing on April 26, 2015 at 5:00pm at SMOTH. Tickets are \$15 and the proceeds will go to Operation Rice Bowl.

**Roadsign:**

Susie Phillips presented information on the reasons SMOTH should purchase an LED road sign for the parish. Her informative handout also included testimonies from other parishes who have purchased LED signs. Other parishes have seen an increase in attendance at mass, increase participation in parish programs with low operating costs. After discussion, it was determined that HFRS would need to be contacted since we share the sign with the school.

Also the building committee would need to be consulted. Janet Gerhard volunteered to assist Susie Phillips on this project.

COMMISSION REPORTS

See individual commission reports for details.

The next PPC meeting will be held on April 26, 2015 at 7:45am at SMOTH.