

St Mary of the Hills
Parish Pastoral Council
April 25, 2015

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

Present: Virginia McMahon, Marlene DeBrosse, Anna Marchese, Susie Phillips, Janet Gerhard, Denis Naeger, Richard Danforth, Forrest Cooper, Mark Suwinski, Mark Joyce, Joan Cashman, Curt Benham,

OLD BUSINESS

The meeting minutes for March 2015 were approved as written.

Calls to Inactive Parishioners:

Last year, the Evangelization Commission made calls to inactive parishioners. The process continues to be a challenge with incorrect phone numbers and messages left on answering machines. The Evangelization Commission volunteered to make the phone calls this year but would need some manpower from the commissions. Also the Evangelization committee would like some guidelines on the following issues:

- What is the purpose of the calls? A “script” for the calls should be developed.
- What parishioners should be called? Inactive or others?
- How do we handle parishioners who have a needs (financial, emotional, transportation etc)?
Need a list of referral agencies that can help.
- Do we offer a free gift and if so, what will that be?
- What should we do with the information once the calls are made?
- How does the office handle returned mail? Do we attempt to change addresses in our database?

A suggestion was proposed to send post cards, similar to other active churches in the area, and follow up with phone calls. Examples of postcards from other churches were distributed for review.

Another suggestion was made to conduct one on one interviews with all new parishioners. At that time critical information such as cell phone numbers and emails and options for volunteering could be discussed. This is the method used at Sacred Heart in Rochester Hills. A template would be developed for discussion points with each new parishioner.

Most important, throughout this process, we want to let inactive parishioners know that they are missed at our parish and they are welcome to come back at any time.

Vision/Philosophy: “St. Mary of the Hills: Live, Learn, Serve

The PPC was asked to review the philosophy and comment to Richard prior to the meeting. Forrest Cooper and Sister Grace made comments and they were read at the meeting. Suggestions were made to write a bulletin article regarding our new philosophy and have Fr. Stan’s homily centered on our new philosophy. Further discussion on this agenda item will take place at the May meeting.

Strategic Concerns/Drivers:

Approval was granted to hire a project manager 20 hours per month to support Sister Grace and Laura in developing programs to get families involved in service projects at the parish. The point was made that we have a hard time securing volunteers for many of the programs.

Gym Usage:

Susie Phillips presented handouts detailing the gym usage at SMOTH for the last year (see attached handout). The conclusions of the study are as follows:

1. St. Mary's gym is a largely unused resource which is not well suited to current parish needs.
2. Times and needs have changed: The modern Catholic facility needs to include a welcoming conference space.
3. Future use of the gym, including possible physical modifications, should be studied.

Also discussed were issues relating to sound quality in the gym. The sound quality varies from good to poor depending on factors such as where you are sitting, what type of microphone is used, the gender of the speaker, and volume setting on the sound system.

A comment was made that additional staff should be trained on the sound system as it appears that Dan Grieg is the only person who has in-depth knowledge of the system.

NEW BUSINESS:**Parish Budget:**

Mark Suwinski reported that our income is steady and we are current on all our obligations. The budget included a 3% increase for staff raises. Please see finance report for detailed budget.

Council Membership Criteria and Officer Elections:

The June meeting will end the term of the At Large member, Curt Benham and will not be replaced. Meghan Schuler has accepted the nomination for the At Large position. Virginia McMahon will be resigning as the Senior Fellowship representative and Michaline Dolinski has accepted the nomination to fill this position. Janet Gerhard will resign her position on the Council as Secretary and Education Commission representative. The Education Commission will need to find a replacement. If Samantha Guerra goes to college locally, she will continue as the Youth representative.

The elections for New Council members will take place in May. Elections for Council Officers will be in June.

Due to the Following Christ retreat on May 16, 2015, the next PPC meeting will be held on Wednesday May 20, 2015 at 6:30pm at SMOTH.

Please see attached for individual Commission/Committee Reports.