

St. Mary of the Hills
Parish Pastoral Council
May 20, 2015

St. Mary of the Hills: Live, Learn, Serve

Present: Curt Benham, Mark Suwinski, Fr Stan, Mark Joyce, Samantha Guerra, Anna Marchese, Jennifer Neill, Joan Cashman, Denis Naeger, Peggy Casing, Janet Gerhard, Meghan Schuler, Marlene DeBrosse, Susie Phillips, George Phillips, Andrew, Carol Gunther

Opening prayer: Denis Naeger

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the April 2015 meeting were approved as written.

ChristLife Update: A total of 72 people are attending the Following Christ program. Approximately half of the participants attended the retreat. Fr. Alex hosted the retreat at St. Mary and, although most of the participants are currently members at SMOTH, he noted that there will be a ripple effect on the entire community. The third and final program in the series, Sharing Christ, has been purchased and the dates for the Fall program will soon be scheduled and placed on the calendar.

Gym usage:

Susie Phillips presented statistics on the SMOTH gym usage. She also reported that the statistics were turned over to the Building Committee. The committee will review the information and take the recommendations under advisement.

Parish Council-Staff Collaboration:

Peggy Casing reported that a SWOT analysis was recently performed at their staff meeting. One of the opportunities identified was to work more closely with the Pastoral Parish Council to ensure we are pursuing the same vision and working collaboratively to achieve the goals for the parish.

The staff suggested that the PPC and staff meet jointly at least 2-3 times per year. There are currently joint PPC/commission meetings in December and June and these meetings would be the perfect opportunity to include the staff. The emphasis of the meetings would be to collaboratively set goals, identify major projects and programs, establish priorities and set the parish calendar.

Fr. Stan identified our two strategic drivers as: 1. We have parishioners with a lot to offer who are not involved as they should be 2. We let aspects of our culture “evolve” rather than deliberately defining the culture. These same strategic drivers were identified at the staff meeting with the addition of the goal to draw the youth into the activities of our parish.

The members of the PPC were very supportive of the plan and agreed that the staff should join us for the June 20, 2015 meeting. Peggy also indicated that the staff would be willing to assist in developing the agenda for the June PPC meeting.

A suggestion was made to highlight all of our Parish successes for the year at the June 20, 2015 PPC meeting. We should celebrate these successes at the PPC meeting as well as highlight them on our website and parish bulletin.

New Council Member at Large: Meghan Schuler was introduced as the new PPC Member At Large. Meghan will also Chair the Education Commission and will be the Education representative on the PPC.

Mary Davis was also introduced to the PPC as she is considering the role of Youth Representative.

New Council Representatives:

Richard noted that Michaelleen Dolinski will represent Senior Fellowship at the PPC meeting. Christian Service will need to nominate a representative.

Council Officer Nominations:

Richard Danforth accepted the nomination as President; Denis Naeger accepted the nomination of Vice President; and Meghan Schuler accepted the nomination of Secretary of the PPC. The voting for council officers will take place at the June 20, 2015 meeting.

Denis Naeger stated that we need a "search committee" to begin securing President, VP and Secretary nominations for 2016-2017 terms. Denis volunteered to spearhead this project.

Parish Calendar:

The following hierarchy is used when placing events on the parish calendar:

1. Worship
2. Education
3. Parish organized events
4. Outside activities and organizations i.e, Boy Scouts

Fr. Stan also reported that we have been using Holy Family South Campus as an overflow for Parish activities with great results. The Following Christ retreat was held at HFRS and was a very comfortable and accommodating setting.

Commission reports:

Youth: Samantha Guerra reported that the Youth Group recently had a speaker on the issue of abortion. The group thought the presentation was very interesting and interactive. The speaker was young and was able to connect with the group and answer all the questions that were asked. She also talked about the challenges of being persecuted for her beliefs. The Q & A session with our own Fr. Stan was also very well received by the Youth Group.

The Youth Box City event is May 29, 2015 at SMOTH. This is a homelessness awareness activity where the youth of the parish will be sleeping outside in boxes at our campus to gain a better awareness of the homelessness in our community.

Please see Commission Minutes for the reports.

Meeting Dates:

The meeting date issue will be up for vote again at the June meeting. The options for meeting will be all Saturdays, all weekdays, or alternating weekend and weekday. A suggestion was made to include all voting members (and not just those who attend the June meeting), therefore the vote will be conducted via email.

The last meeting of the PPC for the 2014-2015 year will be June 20, 2015. It will be a joint meeting with parish staff and all commissions. Please bring a breakfast dish to pass.