

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

June 20, 2015

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

Present: Samantha Guerra, Mary Davis, Grace Keane, Denis Naeger, Loretta Bonello, Mary Wimsatt, Bob Jackson, Michaelaileen Dolinski, Virginia McMahon, Peggy Casing, Marlene DeBrosse, Jay Fedewa Debbie Jackson, Curt Benham, Fr. Stan Ulman, Richard Danforth, Beth Belesky, Judy Rhoads, Anna Marchese, Bill Travnik, Angie Kustasz, Mary Bommarito, George Phillips, Susie Phillips, Mark Suwinski, Mark Joyce, Karen Evangelista, Joan Cashman, Steven Thompson, Tim Nowland, Chris Kozlowski, Mary Martin, Meghan Schuler

Next Meeting: Saturday, September, 19, 2015 @ 7:45 AM

OLD BUSINESS

- Minutes: The minutes of the May 2015 meeting were approved as written.
- ChristLife Wrap-Up: Overall the program was a huge success and the feedback was very positive. Approximately 120 people attended Discovering Christ, 60 people attended Following Christ, and 40 people volunteered between both sessions. Encouraging all past attendees to become Ambassadors for the program next year. Program was able to stay on allocated budget and 900 meals were served over the course of both sessions. Sharing Christ is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015. Thank you to all participants, volunteers, and the parish for their help and support.
- Volunteer Statements for Bulletin- statements are needed for publishing in the bulletin to generate more interest in volunteering and will be published beginning this fall. The statements should include a photograph and testimony about why you volunteer and the benefit of volunteering. Please submit your statement and photo to Laura Corrion.
- New Council Representatives- the new representatives on the council were introduced and welcomed.
 - Seniors will be represented by Michaelaileen Dolinski;
 - Education will be represented by Samantha Guerra; and
 - Youth will be represented by Mary Davis.
 - Fellowship and Christian Services are still looking for representatives.
- A roster of the current council members including names, emails, term start dates, and 1st and 2nd term end dates was distributed to all members. If any information is not accurate, please notify Richard Danforth.

NEW BUSINESS

- Council Officer Elections: Affirmative votes for the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary.
 - Richard Danforth- approved as President
 - Denis Naegar- approved as Vice President
 - Meghan Schuler- approved as Secretary
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- Council Meeting Dates (2015-2016): The entire council, composed of 14 members need to vote and decide on what day meeting will be held for the upcoming 2015-2016 year.
 - Options include:
 - Saturday
 - A Weekday (to be decided which day)
 - Mixture of Saturdays and weekdays
 - Suggestions made:
 - Different arrangement entirely- PPC meets on 1 day of the month and commissions to meet on another day of month
 - ❖ Suggestion: advantage of 1 day a month is for people on both PPC and commissions to meet on a single day and make only one trip to the church
 - Not all members were represented to hold a vote at the meeting. An email vote will be circulated to all PPC Members and will be completed by the end of July. If the council is fully represented all members will have a vote, but if commission representative spots are still open, they will lose their vote. Regardless of the final vote, the first meeting of the year still be held on a Saturday.
 - **Next PPC meeting: Saturday, September, 19, 2015 @ 7:45 AM**
- Chapel Prayer Service: Sr. Grace delivered the report and asked for feedback. Feedback was positive and includes the following:
 - New and improved
 - Most liked format and template
 - The format for next year will remain the same and assignments were done alphabetically for simplicity purposes and are as follows:
 - September 2015- Education
 - October 2015- Evangelization
 - November 2015- Finance
 - December 2015- Fellowship
 - January 2016- Stewardship
 - February 2016- Christian Service
 - March 2016- Charitable Giving
 - April 2016- Worship
 - May- Staff
 - June- another committee, possibly Youth?

- Needs assessment survey: Christian Service delivered the report. The survey is titled “The Giving of Ourselves” and is a survey to assess the needs of our community and focus our outreach efforts and increase awareness. Currently, the survey is in draft form and any editing and feedback is welcomed before final publication. The survey, a 4 page document is available in Google Docs for editing. The survey will be distributed to parishioners through the parish email system and will be available on the St. Mary of the Hills parish website. Also, announcements will be made at all masses and posted in the bulletin. Everyone is encouraged to participate by printing a hard copy of the survey to complete and returning it to the parish office.
- SWOC Analysis: Mary Martin present to speak on and facilitate the analysis of St. Mary of the Hills Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges. The parish staff already did the SWOC analysis and the results were compiled and distributed. Once the PPC completes the exercise, a smaller group of volunteers from the staff, PPC, and other parish leaders will be assembled to distill what was presented, focus the details, and formulate a plan for the parish. This smaller committee will meet a few times this summer and anyone is welcome to join. Some people volunteered to participate.
 - Any volunteers for the committee, contact Chris Kozlowski.
 - Any suggestions for committee, please email Peggy Casing.
 - Suggestions made:
 - Engage the whole parish. Good idea, but committee wants to meet soon and there might not be enough time to do this.
 - Group strengths from parish and PPC analysis and affirm by posting in the parish bulletin.
 - Written results submitted to Richard Danforth will also be included.

SWOT Results: (everyone encouraged to write down suggestions for each category)

Strengths-(i.e. things parish is really good at, draw others to community, things to celebrate):

Music program, friendliness, welcoming, leadership, dedication, bulletin, fiscally sound, clergy-specifically the priests, active parish, youth programs, tithing, service opportunities, members with different backgrounds, ChristLife program, active Knights of Columbus

Weaknesses- (i.e. things parish is not really good at):

Not enough meeting space, lack of office space, not enough parishioners contributing money/tithing, poor dissemination of information to parishioners, internal communication, lack of new volunteers, turn over in leadership among groups, many events offered but not all well attended, GIFT program, large parish but few families participate, more decision makes, budget items, mass not starting on time, children not learning prayers/faith traditions, need more youth and young adult participate, no signature item that parish is known for, lack of audio/visual capabilities, lack of openness for growth

Opportunities (i.e. dreams, vision, ideas that are seen but not taking full advantage of):

1000+ families but few are active, young families, growing community, better economy than previous times, utilize Agape, parishioners eager for spiritual growth/speakers/conferences, middle aged parishioners without children, busy road and good location, present and open and available message to the community, encourage the youth and college age, engage greater Rochester Hills community, former Catholics who drifted away from church

Threats (i.e. things in community that are a disadvantage maybe because of size/location/age)

Younger families leaving the church, non-denominational attracting members away, loss of youth, weddings being held outside of the parish, increased tuition for catholic education, increase in the use of technology causing distractions, busy families that are unable/unwilling to participate, lack of catechism for elementary- high school age, culture speaking louder than faith, fewer priests, misinformation being spread by poorly informed parishioners, maintaining respect

Commission/Committee Reports:

- Youth- Mary Davis delivered the report. SMYG preparing for its annual service project week, SAW (SMYG At Work). The whole year has been leading up to this project. This year's theme voted on by the 2015 senior class is "*Stamp your faith on world*". Service projects will include OATS- doing farm maintenance and running class, Habitat for Humanity- restoring homes, Life Builders in Detroit, Angel's Place- gardening and home maintenance, and new this year the youth will be able to do enrichment projects with the developmentally disabled residents, and Parishioner's homes- gardening, maintenance, and painting projects. Also new this year, an Instagram account (smyg_at_work) was made to document the worksites through pictures and share them with the community and other youth. The account is public and everyone is welcome to "follow it". A comment made that the current week's bulletin written by Chris Kozlowski was very explanatory about the SAW program and inspiring.
- Seniors. Michealeen Dolinski delivered the report. The next meeting will include a picnic. Events this summer include an outing to the Detroit Historical Museum in July and volunteering with SOS on Thursday night and volunteering with the parish picnic.
- No Holy Family Regional School Report
- See minutes from Parish Commissions- Christian Service, Worship, Evangelization

Announcements

- Farewell and thank you to all departing members
- Bulletin article about Sr. Grace celebrating 50 years of vows and religious life
- Agape Young Adults and CCRT vicariate programs will be moving to St. Mary of the Hills to be based and housed at the parish