

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

September 19, 2015

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

Present: Fr. Stan Ulman, Richard Danforth, Debbie Jackson, Lou Papale, Clem Valot, Anna Marchese, Denis Naeger, Kim Boismier, Meghan Schuler, Mary Davis, Susie Phillips, George Phillips, Mark Suwinski

Next Meeting: Saturday, October, 17, 2015 @ 7:45 AM

OLD BUSINESS

- Minutes: The minutes of the June 2015 meeting were approved as written.
- SWOC Analysis: A committee was formed to further analyze and develop the SWOC results compiled from both the SMoTH staff and PPC.

During the 1st meeting, the committee agreed to narrow down the results and focus on 3 responses in each category, which were as follows:

- Strengths
 1. Music ministry
 2. Welcoming and friendly atmosphere
 3. Clergy
- Weaknesses
 1. Lack of new volunteers
 2. Internal communication
 3. Lack of Young Adult participation
- Opportunities
 1. Bringing back those who have drifted away
 2. Re-engaging those who are inactive
 3. Evangelization/ Community out-reach
- Challenges
 1. Appeal of other churches
 2. No spiritual feeding
 3. Demographics in surrounding community

During the second meeting, the committee spent time revising the parish mission statement and tried to take the existing statement and combine it with the mission of “live, learn, serve”. This is still a work in progress.

The committee is still actively working on the SWOC analysis and mission statement.

- ChristLife: The third session in the Christ Life series, “Sharing Christ” begins October 1, 2015. Fewer people have registered than the previous two sessions, so the venue has been moved from the gym to a smaller room. This session has a different format and is designed to “carry out the mission of evangelization”.

- ChristLife Workshop -several people attended the AOD ChristLife workshop and spoke with Dave Nodar and Fr. Eric about the future and direction of the program. The feedback was positive and ChristLife is a growing program around the AOD that is changing lives and there is excitement about going forward.
- Next ChristLife series- The Evangelization committee is discussing and considering about whether the same timeline and cadence should be followed for the next series. The initial thought was to advertise during Christmas but the committee is looking at considerations such as what other parishes are doing, the school year and parish calendars, and that the program is being re-done and new materials will be available in March. The tentative options are as follows:
 1. Start in January and do the 3 series with a summer break (1st series format)
 2. Start in January and do the 3 series and end before summer (new option)
 3. Start another program after Christmas time (new option)
- CSA
CSA team is hoping to wrap collections up within the next weekend, but is still about \$6,500 short of the intended goal. Any funds donated over the goal will be used to repair windows and paint the Narthex. With the completion of CSA, the Finance committee will start to concentrate on Changing Lives Together (CLT) campaign and other projects.
- Volunteer Statements- The first statement about Sam Guerra ran last week and the feedback was very positive. Laura Corrion is still collection statements and photos to let the parish learn more about our great volunteers. Please prepare and email them to Laura at laurac@smoth.org.
- Gym Sound System- Dan Greig was present at the opening session of the PPC and gave an instructional lesson about the sound system and how to hold the microphone for the best sound quality. There are still some difficulties with the system and Chris Kozlowski will be meeting with an engineering group to discuss these issues and create solutions. Sound dampening panels will also be investigated. A suggestion was made to hold a brief training before events for anyone that will be using the sound system during that event. A comment was also made about DVD and music sound quality but those sound sources cannot be controlled as easily.

NEW BUSINESS

- Vacancies on PPC
 - Pontiac Area Vicariate (PAV)- also a one evening a month commitment for PAV meetings
 - Fellowship Vacancies- PAV and fellowship

A suggestion was made to have Laura Corrion advertise for the position. A suggestion was that the best way to get new volunteers is to approach someone and extend a personal invitation. A suggestion was to ask youth/young adults to consider these opportunities

- PPC Officers - The PPC officers have term limits and there is a need to begin searching NOW for new officers next year. The candidates can only be selected from the current PPC which is the officers and commission/committee representative. However, this also includes the vacant representative positions and someone who is not even currently on the council could fill the vacant representative position and be considered for an officer selection as follows:
 - Vacant positions on PPC:
 - PAV representative
 - Fellowship representative
 - At-large position (currently filled but someone new could step in)

Please continue to think and pray about who would be a good candidate!

- AGAPE- Kim Boismier, director, was present at the meeting for the following:
 - **Background-** AOD program for young adults ages 18-35 years old that started with campus ministry and young adults working together but the young adults broke off this group to keep the ministry at St. John Fisher parish.
 - **Structure-** board of directors, strategic working committee, leadership council
 - **Mission-** ministry, promote peer relationships, connection to faith and GOD
 - AGAPE also conducted a SWOC analysis and the #1 result was SMoTH.
 - **Events**
 - Mass- second Saturday of every month at SMoTH chapel, 7:30 PM
 - Couples Ministry- for dating, engaged, and married couples
 - Coffee and Conversation-held at Panera Adams Road in Rochester Hills
 - Theology on Tap- held at Mr. B's in Rochester
 - Retreats- 2 peer led retreats every year
 - Fundraiser- "Bowling with Pope" , September 27th in Mt. Clemens; in addition to bowling, alley is coordinating a room and television to watch papal mass
 - Mass Testimonials- young adult will speak at SMoTH mass on October 4th
- Parishioner Feedback:
 - Lou Papale present at meeting to discuss the following:
 - many Catholics have fallen away from the church
 - Sermons- relate to present day, "our lives are now"
 - Bring outside world into our church and turn to God for help

COMMISSION REPORTS:

- Youth- Mary Davis was present to give the following report:
 - SMYG kick off was a success with almost 30 people in attendance, new faces
 - Upcoming Events:
 - September 30th- SMYG to help with Middle School Program (MSP)
 - October 23-25- Fall Retreat held at Subiaco
- Attached minutes- Education, Evangelization, Fellowship, Seniors Stewardship, Worship