

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

November 21, 2015

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

Present: Fr. Stan Ulman, Richard Danforth, Susie Phillips, George Phillips, Carol Gunther, Jay Fedewa, Angie Kadowaki, Michaelleen Dolinski, Denis Naeger, Lou Papale, Clem Valot, Debbie Jackson, Karen Dudek, Mary Davis, Samantha Guerra, Meghan Schuler, Mark Suwinski

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

OLD BUSINESS

- October 17, 2015 Minutes
 - PPC meeting minutes were approved as written.
 - Submission timeline- commission/committee minutes should be submitted within 1 week of that month's PPC meeting
 - Email to Meghan Schuler at meghan.schuler@gmail.com
 - Purpose/goal: To submit and publish on the SMOTH website in a more timely manner and to improve communication
 - Thank you! October 2015 minutes were submitted timely and everyone did a great job. The 1 week timeline will continue for subsequent meeting minutes

- Council Vacancies
 - Fellowship Representative- Michaelleen Dolinski volunteered to accept this position with assistance from Angie Kadowaki, another commission member
 - Meeting Discussion:
 - Fellowship is going to focus on engaging young families as a point of entry and will work closely with the Evangelization committee to contact these young families and determine what their needs are
 - Comment: concern about the 2016 parish picnic which is traditionally run by the Fellowship committee
 - Is Fellowship still going to take on this event?
 - Comment: will support, but might not want the sole responsibility to fall upon this committee
 - If not, who will take on this responsibility?
 - Need a Chair Person
 - Comment: No official date
 - When will the 2016 picnic be held?
 - Comment: Keep the food (hot dogs, chips, pop) as too many side dishes slows down the flow of the picnic because people have to wait in line for longer periods of time

- Year of Mercy
 - Background-
 - Timeline- This coming year, beginning December 8, 2015, will be declared the "Year of Mercy" and will run the whole next year
 - Tradition existing in old testament time and practiced by various popes throughout the centuries
 - Declare this to be a year of forgiveness and healing (physical, feelings, emotions, relationships)
 - Example: forgiveness from a priest instead of a bishop for those who had an abortion or touched by it
 - **Question: How can we make this year relevant to not only our parish but to those outside the parish? As a Parish, how do we inform and inspire others? What practical actions can we take to show forgiveness and reconciliation?**
 - **Confession**
 - Should place more emphasis on this sacrament
 - People are in need of reconciliation
 - Show people it's a healing sacrament and not to be afraid or scared
 - Help walk through and teach people
 - suggestion- 12 step program
 - **Migrants and Refugees**
 - Show mercy to these people
 - Examine carefully what should be done and how to address
 - Comment- The Rosary is prayed - Fridays at 5PM at SMOTH to pray for world needs & evangelization, putting emphasis on prayer and appealing to the Lord and to Mary as there is a connection between the Rosary and what is going on in the world with terrorism
 - Suggestion- sponsor a refugee or migrant family as a parish
 - **Divorce, Separation, Remarriage**
 - If our parish is in line with the national statistic (~50%), half of the parish would fall into this category
 - Comment- currently do have programs running that address some of these groups (ex. Divorce Ministry)
 - Comment- Are they attending mass?
 - Could be an area where the parish reaches out to those who aren't attending as an indication of mercy
 - Comment- Fr. Stan could articulate the focus the Year of Mercy and speak about it at each mass for 1 weekend

- Mass Attendance
 - Statistics- a hand out was provided showing the mass attendance numbers and statistics from 2010 to 2015
 - Attendance slightly lower in 2014 and 2015
 - Worship Discussion:
 - **Question: Moving the 5PM to 4PM beginning in July 2016**
 - **Favored**
 - Fr. Stan has received personal requests to move the time Ending around 5PM provides more daylight for driving
 - Can mess up dinner schedules
 - Average mass attendance is usually under 300
 - Question: How do we know this will increase?
 - Comment: Won't know until we try the change
 - Comment: All individuals (babies, kids, adults) are being counted by the ushers
 - Parish demographic is older and not young families
 - Question- Which demographic should we be accommodating and focusing on?
 - Other local parishes are seeing higher attendance at 4PM
 - Comment- no variety in mass times if all local parishes have 4PM masses and no 5PM mass
 - **Opposed**
 - Weddings scheduled at 2PM
 - Comment- parties for 2016 weddings have been contacted about the mass time change and to schedule their events accordingly
 - Shortens the day for other Saturday afternoon programs
 - Reduce rosary and reconciliation participation
 - Comment: could hold after mass instead of before
 - Confusion
 - Comment- will be advertised in advanced so everyone is aware and informed
 - Small sample size- only 3 parishioners responded to November 8th the bulletin where question was posed
 - Question: Can we survey those who attend 5pm?
 - Not accommodating to those with families and children
 - Comment- option to attend 9AM and 11AM masses on Sunday; programs available for children
 - **Conclusion:**
 - Still under consideration
 - Possible to study more, gather information and data before final decision

- Commission Reports
 - **Youth-** Mary Davis was present to provide the report
 - Bridging the gap between the SMYG and MSP program
 - Every high school student who attends SMYG on the Wednesday nights that MSP is being held is involved with the MSP program as a small group facilitator
 - great attendance at these meetings
 - positive feedback from the high schoolers as well as those coordinating MSP
 - Social Media
 - Mary Davis will be working with Kim Boismier on a social media strategy for SMYG and young adults
 - Going to speak with Chris Druin to determine and how to facilitate the social media and get events published
 - **Seniors**
 - Chris Druin was supposed to have a workshop, need to contact Chris Kozlowski to determine if this is still possible
 - Dr. Bueller, a local chiropractor, came to the group meeting to give a "Wellness Champions" presentation which was informative about health and nutrition, vitamins, and exercise
 - Parade warehouse trip- took a trip Downtown Detroit to see the floats and balloons for the Thanksgiving Day parade, had lunch afterwards at a Hamtramck restaurant and bakery.
 - Future Events- trip to the Pewabic tile manufacturer
 - Please see attached for minutes of the following commissions/committees:
 - Christian Service, Education, Evangelization, Fellowship, Stewardship, Worship

The following was not discussed at the meeting but is a reminder:

The next meeting, (December 19, 2015, beginning at 7:45 am), will be a potluck so all are encouraged to bring food or beverages to share. The Fellowship Commission will lead the prayer service in the chapel at 8:00 AM>.

The Parish Council meeting will be a joint meeting at which all commission and committee members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Parish Council meeting which will begin around 10:00 am following the individual commission/committee meetings.