

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

December 19, 2015

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

Present: Kim Boismier, Samantha Guerra, Mary Davis, Denis Naeger, Judy Rhoads, Peggy Casing, Richard Danforth, Susie Phillips, George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Sr. Grace Keane, Angie Kadowaki, Michaeleen Dolinski, Cheryl Bida, Anna Marchese, Fr. Stan Ulman, Mark Suwinski, Tim Nolan, Carol Gunther, Chris Kozlowski, Dan Greig, Beth Belesky, Deacon Alex, Hugh Buchanan, Peggy Bailey, Meghan Schuler

NEW BUSINESS

- Christmas Quiz- Fr. Stan presented a Christmas quiz game with the winning group receiving a prize.
- Salt and Light- Sr. Grace Keane presented on this new website and its resources that might be valuable to many groups within the parish
- <http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-083.cfm> (USCCB article on the new website)
- <http://www.wearesaltandlight.org/> (Salt and Light main website)
- Resources include the following:
 - Categories and subtopics:
 - PRAY TOGETHER - scripture, liturgy, sacraments
 - REACH OUT TOGETHER- encounter diversity, ecumenism, leadership, community
 - LEARN TOGETHER- Catholic social teaching, get the facts, discern the call
 - ACT TOGETHER- service & relief, advocacy, preaching, community development
 - Videos
 - Success Stories- 50 inspiring stories
- Cruise was a success and many parishioners gave suggestions including:
 - Reading and discussion groups on Laudato Si
 - Specific legislative advocacy efforts (MCC, USCCB, Jesuit Relief Services, etc.)
 - Service and charitable works for families with young children
 - Adopting Syrian refugee family
 - More tables for coffee and conversation at Sunday mass

OLD BUSINESS

- November 21, 2015 Minutes
 - PPC meeting minutes were approved as written
 - Thank you for timely submissions!
 - Goal: commission/committee minutes should be submitted within 1 week of that month's PPC meeting
 - Email to Meghan Schuler at meghan.schuler@gmail.com

- SWOC update
 - June 2015- at the combined meeting- process started and data collected
 - Summer 2015- a committee formed to study the data, identified top 3 strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges, and chose to focus on weaknesses
 - Top 3 Weaknesses- lack of participation, lack of volunteers, and lack of young adult participation
 - Fall 2015- began to evaluate at a deeper level and developed a set of questions as a "self-study" for commissions/committees to complete

- Open discussion
 - **What was learned? Discoveries made? Share with the rest of us?**
 - **Is it just numbers? Is that the problem?**

 - *Comment:* need to engage younger families, some representatives from the Fellowship Committee attended the Jesus birthday party and talked to the younger families about what they are looking for from the parish.
 - *Response:* this was a good idea and need to do the following:
 - Personally reaching out to parishioners
 - Encourage parishioners to attend events
 - Continue to ask "What can we do to better serve you?"

 - *Comment:* not number of volunteers but how they are utilized. Seem to be getting the same people over and over, and need to find a way to get new people engaged

 - *Comment:* important to cultivating new leadership and continue to, move people up in the ranks by looking for those with the interest and potential

 - *Comment:* take the time to build the connections

 - *Comment:* people and opportunities are there, but need personal invitation

 - *Comment:* it's also a discerned call and people need to feel that God has invited me to this particular ministry

- *Response*: meet people where they are at first and then start to bring them forward
 - *Response*: need inspiration
- *Comment*: engage parents through their children and get the children excited about coming to church so the parents will feel like it's a safe place they can become engaged too, such as with the kids choir
- Question: Are we creating an intentional space for these suggestions?
- *Comment*: the approach should be more of an integrated effort and we should try and think more outside the box
 - *Suggestion*: ask a young family to sit on each commission
 - *Response*: might work, but need to be specific about what the need is first, and ask families to do some specific task or they might not commit if it's a general statement of "we need help"
 - *Response*: important point- there are a lot of opportunities but might not be as many specific tasks
- Commission Reports
 - Youth
 - Rainbow- SMYG will bring a group of high schoolers to attend this CYO conference at the end of January
 - Middle School Program- going really well for all those involved
 - Seniors- no December 2015 meeting, but had a successful Christmas party
 - Please see attached for minutes of the following commissions/committees: Education, Evangelization, Fellowship, Stewardship, Worship

Next Meeting: Saturday, January 16th @ 7:45AM