

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

February 20, 2016

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

Present: Richard Danforth, Carol Gunther, George Phillips, Susie Phillips, Denis Naegar, Samantha Guerra, Mary Davis, Meghan Schuler, Beth Belesky, Michaelleen Dolinski, Jay Fedewa, and Mark Suwinski, Sr. Grace Keane, Bill Hill

OLD BUSINESS

- January 16, 2016 Minutes
 - PPC meeting minutes were approved as written
 - Minutes should be emailed to Meghan Schuler at meghan.schuler@gmail.com

- March chapel service
 - Youth commission requested to switch from June to March to lead prayer service
 - Charitable Giving was scheduled for March but will move to June

- Mass time survey
 - Survey complete- results and comments were compiled and copies distributed
 - Result: Even 50/50 split for moving 5pm mass time to 4pm
 - Fr. Stan's Proposal: Test the 4pm mass time from November 2016- February 2017
 - Reason: common theme in survey comments included: conflicting schedules and hours of daylight in the winter. The proposed time frame runs somewhat parallel to daylight savings time. 4pm mass in winter will accommodate those who mass to end during daylight in winter. 5pm mass in summer will accommodate those with conflicting schedules/activities.
 - Comment: Facts show that other churches in area have 4pm masses including Sacred Heart which has a different demographic,
 - Comment: A downside to the time change is that it will create confusion especially since Christmas bookmarks were handed out with mass times
 - Comment: Worship Commission supports time change trial because it's just a proposal and results cannot be determined until we try this and gather data. Then we can compare the numbers and see if there is an increase in mass attendance.
 - Comment: Parish council is an advisory and not legislative body. We can give a concurrence and put proposal to a vote in March
 - Comment: Survey comments are not complete and are cut off. Richard Danforth will get the full version and distribute via email.
 - Conclusion: Put proposal to a vote at March meeting

- Parish Council Officer Elections
 - Available positions:
 - 1 At-Large- 2 year term, 2 consecutive terms
 - 3 Officers- 1 year term
 - Nominations:
 - April- open until this meeting and will be made then
 - May- elections will be held at this meeting
 - Recruiting: individuals have been approached and asked to consider filling at large officer positions, but an effort should be made to continue recruiting
 - Question: Can the at-large individual also hold an officer position?
 - Answer: Yes, 2 current officers are also at-large members
 - Question: What if there were 2 or more candidates for officer positions?
 - Answer: The council would vote by a secret ballot

- Parish Plan for Year of Mercy
 - Proposal: **Refugee Family**
 - Office of Immigration and Refugees in Archdiocese
 - Denis Naegar has contacted and is awaiting a response and hopes to have more information to present at the March meeting
 - Proposal: **Flint Water**
 - Several people have been looking into how the parish could help
 - Sr. Grace visited Catholic Charities of Lansing and New Life Center and Women's Center
 - A "Flint Water Crisis Toolkit" has been put together with information, contacts, practical actions
 - Question: Examples of practical actions?
 - Answer: no supermarkets in Flint, but money could be donated to purchase and distribute items like milk
 - Answer: hire someone to drive around and distribute water as maintenance man is currently doing this and can't do his own job
 - Answer: certain occupations are needed like doctors, nurses, and social workers
 - Conclusion: As a parish we should pick 1-2 areas to focus on and will decide which to take action on at the March meeting
 - Comment: Meeting to brainstorm ideas for mercy and written summary read
 - Prison Prayer ministry-commitment to pray 1 on 1 for a prisoner. No individual meetings but will be provided first name and specific concerns the prisoner would like you to pray about.
 - Contact: Karen Dudek, Beth Belesky, Hugh Buchanan if interested
 - Comment: Excellent presentation about prayer for unborn babies and maybe could do the same format with the prisoner prayers

NEW BUSINESS

- AED Quiz
 - Follow up T/F quiz to the AED training provided by the Rochester Hills Fire Department at the January meeting
 - Answers: All True except #5 was False Attached

- CSA
 - 2015-2016
 - complete and very successful
 - Approximately \$13,000 above budget
 - 2016-2017
 - Pfeffer family led campaign last year and has volunteered again this year

- Archdiocese Synod
 - Susie Philips commented and provided the information as both her and Hugh Buchanan attended a training session
 - Dates: November 18-20, 2016
 - Representatives are selected from each parish
 - 3 names submitted from SMOTH and 1 chosen and announced
 - "Dialogue Gathering Sessions"- held at SMOTH in May to collect parishioner feedback that can be presented at the synod.
 - Session leader: Hugh Buchanan
 - Session note taker: Susie Phillips will lead the sessions and Susie Phillips

COMMISSION REPORTS

- Youth
 - January attended CYO Rainbow Conference with other high school students
 - Speaker: " Mr. Peace" and would like to get him to come to SMYG and present to the high school students
 - Next weekend- SMYG will host the 7th grade confirmation retreat

- Seniors - no report

- Holy Family Regional School- no report

- Finance
 - New representative: Donna Kopinski
 - Co-chair: Karen Evangelista