

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

October 15, 2016

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

Present: George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Cheryl Garneau, Jim Armistead, Cheryl Bida, Carol Gunther, Jim Armistead, Clem Valot, John Schuler, Meghan Schuler, Samantha Guerra, Michaelleen Dolinski, Hugh Buchanan, Susie Phillips, Mary Petrella

OPENING PRAYER (George Phillips)

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS (George Phillips)

1. George talked about the importance of the mass, starting with genuflection when we enter the church, and the importance of applying the lessons that you have learned at mass to your daily life. He also reminded us that we should experience the joy of our faith, "Jesus doesn't like a grumpy Catholic."
2. From the Archdiocesan handbook: The role of the parish council is not to do the detailed work of the parish; that is the work of the parish commissions. The parish council needs to keep in mind what will best help the parish carry out the agenda that has been set out. We have pared down our vision to the top two strategic drivers that are discussed below. The executive committee will continue to look to these as our vision, and to identify discussion points to further develop strategies addressing these concerns. Commissions carry out the established goals, and can use standing and/or ad hoc committees to carry out the work to achieve these goals (as in Picnic, ChristLife program, etc.). All commissions operate with the parish council, and communicate with each other to carry out the vision of the parish in a collaborative spirit.

OLD BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

September meeting minutes were approved as written.

2. **Updates to Parish Council membership:** Cheryl Bida attended for Christian Service. Bill Hill will be the usual representative. Jim Armistead, with Carol Gunther as alternate, will represent Stewardship. We will keep all on distribution. For Worship, Hugh Buchanan is the Parish Council representative, and Mary Pat Soisson is the Worship Commission leader. See the updated membership table below.

Group	Chairperson/Leader	Secretary	Representative to Parish Council
Christian Service	Bill Hill	TBD	Bill Hill/ Cheryl Bida alternate
Education	Sam Guerra	Tom Wietchy	Sam Guerra
Evangelization	George Phillips	Susie Phillips	George Phillips
Fellowship		Loretta	John Schuler
Finance	Donna Kopinski		Donna Kopinski
HFRS	Cheryl Garneau	NA	Cheryl Garneau
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Hugh Buchanan and Susie Phillips	NA	Susie Phillips
Seniors			Michaeleen Dolinski
Stewardship	Carol Gunther		Jim Armistead (Carol Gunther, alternate)
Worship		Mary Pat Soisson	Hugh Buchanan
Youth		NA	Matt Ongcapin

3. Parish Council “Meet and Greet” after masses (George)

George presented the following proposal to grow visibility and understanding about the Parish Council, and to be accessible to parishioners: To all meet parishioners after mass @ coffee/doughnuts periodically through the coming year. The decision was to do this the weekend before the Parish Council meeting (with Mass announcement so people know we are there).

George is asking for volunteers to staff a table with discussion and information at the coffee and doughnuts after Sunday masses on November 13 and December 11. The reason is for transparency and to provide an opportunity for discussion with parishioners. We can also invite parishioners to the PC meetings on the following weekend. Clem suggested that we extend this invitation to the commissions to attend and talk to parishioners as well. This is an opportunity to grow their membership.

4. Top Two Strategic Concerns All

1.) “We have parishioners with a lot to offer who aren’t as involved as they should be”

Proposal: Create three leadership positions within each commission/committee to be a “trustee” or “Core member” (copy from the handout) in order to provide continuity and leadership within the commission, to the parish council, and to help recruit new members.

Discussion: Carol Gunther asked: how is this different than a normal member of the commission? George said that this is a 3-year commitment, and there is additional status given to the member. They would stay in longer, perhaps, than the chairperson. They would be a bridge. Jim Armistead suggested a one-year term to start out with, that a three-year commitment would be hard to fill. The problem is retaining knowledge and getting stability in the commission. It is about succession planning. The trustees will provide additional assistance to the chairperson. Some commissions need this more than others. What we are trying to solve is “where can people find a home in what to do?” “There are specific responsibilities identified, to have go-to people who are there for a period of time.

2.) ”We let most aspects of our culture “evolve” rather than deliberately creating a parish culture to support our vision”.

Discussion: George asked us to think about “What is our parish DNA?” What do people think of when they hear the name “St. Mary’s.”? We need to define what our parish is all about. We are known for our music ministry and for being welcoming. What else do we want to be? We are supporters of Matthew Kelly – we hand out his books. Every parish can’t do everything. What things are we going to say that come to the forefront? We are in the exploratory phases of defining these concepts. The template for the Trustees/ Core members will help bring ideas forward about “who we are.” What role does faith play in our lives? This is ripe for self-reflection and discernment. Who are we and what are our strengths and talents? The Best practices are good for the “how’s” but you need to understand where you are going. The parish meet-and-greet on Sundays, and discussions within the commissions throughout the year will help develop this, and the goal is to get volunteers for the trustee roles by May/June.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Roadblocks for Stewardship October Chapel leader (Carol Gunther)

It is Stewardship month, so Stewardship took the prayer service opportunity to explain and promote the Stewardship efforts of email updates, the upcoming talents survey, and the upcoming Stewardship Fair on October 22/23.

2. Stewardship Fair Status/Update

The theme is outstretched hands with the slogan “Do Something!” There will be tables around the gym. Each commission, and the additional groups who have asked for a table, are invited to have representatives and information to discuss their ministry. Hard copies of the talents inventory will be available at the fair for those who prefer hard copy over emails. Meghan asked when the results of the skills inventory will be available for the commissions to tap into. There is no deadline stated in the response, so there will be follow-up in the bulletin, and a second round of emails to reach out to those who didn’t respond the first time.

3. St. Andrews Dynamic Catholic Conf. Update (Susie Phillips)

Matthew Kelly spoke at St. Andrew’s church on October 8. It was inspiring. Father Stan and many St. Mary’s parishioners were in attendance. He spoke about the importance of re-energizing the Catholic Church in America. The statistics are alarming: 85% of young people who are confirmed will no longer be practicing their faith in 7 years. Mass attendance among those who identify as Catholics is about 29%, but we are on a path to be similar to Europe in about 20 years, where mass attendance is as low as 4% in some countries. We have not, in recent years, told our story. We have allowed the media to tell our story. The Catholic Church feeds, clothes, houses, visits in prison, and educates more people than any other institution – yet we don’t tell our story. Another important point: other churches are targeting Catholic youth, and “whoever wants the Catholic youth the most, will get them.” He talked about the church needing “game-changers,” not just tweaks. The Dynamic Catholic Christmas/Easter book giveaway program has put thousands of books into the hands of Catholics who only attend once or twice per year. The second “game changer” that Dynamic Catholic is working on is highly researched, quality education programs. The confirmation preparation program is called “Decision Point,” and is offered free to any parish who wants it. It is currently in use in 50% of parishes nationwide.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service	Cheryl Bida	Will rotate through ministries for support throughout the year. Almsgiving event coming up. Try to get the parish involved in ministries. For example, will highlight the specific ministries with timeline, such as supporting Neighborhood House, St. Vincent de Paul. They are working on developing a calendar so people know what the ministries are about, and when activities are taking place so that people can plan to support them. Sam mentioned that she would be happy to take information to advertise on Social Media. October 1 event had about 20 people at St. Mary's. It could be an annual event. 100 parishes participated, with 4000 volunteers, 200 projects around the Archdiocese.
Education	Sam Guerra	Education will have tables for Education and Social Media at the Stewardship Fair. Sam gave the update from Preschool, which has included a recent field trip to the cider mill, and the Samaritan's purse project. Confirmation has over 100 candidates this year, so there will be a separate confirmation mass on Friday instead of using the normal Saturday mass. Agape retreat is coming up October 21/22.
Evangelization	George Phillips	Currently running Discover Christ; finishes up before Thanksgiving. Following Christ and Sharing Christ will run from January through spring. Have 2 new members. Are charged with the book giveaway at Christmas which will be "Resisting Happiness," by Matthew Kelly. St. Paul Street Evangelization has established a Rochester Chapter: website is streetevangelization.com/Rochester
Fellowship	John Schuler	Two events: Harvest Festival was very popular. People liked the casual atmosphere, and seemed to attract a slightly younger crowd than wine tasting. Upcoming event is Advent by Candlelight. Megan is inviting women's groups. In the past, it was a table hostess invitation, who would handle the decoration and refreshments for the table, this year, it will be opened up to single seat reservations and the committee or other volunteers will decorate and furnish refreshments for these tables.
Finance	Mary Petrella, alt for Donna	Finance is scrutinizing the transition in the business manager arena. Preschool. Bills paid/ accounts are reconciled. Future discussion will take place about the electronic sign out on John R.
HFRS	Cheryl Garneau	Annual appeal is happening now. Feb 4 annual gala is moving to Cherry Creek this year. HVAC replacement project is getting bids. The 5 acres were purchased and the short-term planning for the property was presented (removing some trees and removing an existing structure) to clear use for athletics. Campus ministry has a theme every month, and this month is Rosary month, so the children are learning about the rosary and the mysteries.
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Susie Phillips	The new vicar has been announced as Fr. Jim Keane from St. Damien's in Pontiac. Hugh Buchanan and Susie Phillips attended. Father Keane went over the structure and goals of the Vicariate. Nick Jorgensen spoke about the upcoming Evangelization synod, and the council adopted the idea of presenting a list of 3 questions to each member parish about their accomplishments, roadblocks, and vision. The PAV reps will bring back the results of their discussions back to the vicariate for a PAV discussion about our combined needs and vision.
Seniors	Michaeleen Dolinski	Angie Kadowaki talked about American house, and Dan Greig talked about the benefits of music for seniors. Field trip to Turkeyville is sold out.

Stewardship	Jim Armistead	Going to try to highlight a ministry on a rotating basis (monthly) including specific volunteer opportunities.
Worship	Hugh Buchanan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking for 6 – 10 new ushers. 2. Reminded everyone that the mass change to 4:00 begins 1st weekend in November. 3. Will have representatives at the Stewardship Fair. 4. November will be a busy month: All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Thanksgiving, and Advent begins. 5. On October 23 at 3:00 pm there will be a rosary procession at St. Mary's if anyone would like to participate. 6. Nov 11 Rochester chorus will be here, 7:30 Friday, Dan Greig
Youth		Matt was not here. George emphasized to the group that the parish council recognizes the importance of supporting youth and young adults. Any needs that are out there - we will help support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, QUESTIONS

Jay: St. Cecil's Mass mob tomorrow.

Meghan: Add "SMOTH" as a friend on Facebook

Susie brought up the idea of presenting people with calendars to aid them in choosing what they can participate in. Carol asked how that would work – would it be like a room calendar – maybe – it could be sortable. A Christian service opportunities calendar was mentioned. There could be future discussion about providing people info to participate in activities according to their interest and time availability.

CLOSING PRAYER (Hugh Buchanan)

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes are due within **one week** from the meeting, please email: Jay Fedewa
jfedewa0467@wowway.com

REMAINING MEETINGS

SMOTH Parish Council Meetings	Parish Council Prayer Leader and "Deep Dive" area for the Chapel Opening Prayer
Nov. 19	Fellowship
Dec. 17	Education
Jan. 21	Finance
Feb. 18	Worship
Mar. 18	Youth
Apr. 22	Christian Service
May. 20	Staff
Jun. 17	Executive Committee or Other