

# St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

September 17, 2016

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

**Present:** Fr. Stan Ulman, George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Cheryl Garneau, Jim Armistead, Clem Valot, John Schuler, Meghan Schuler, Samantha Guerra, Michaelleen Dolinski, Hugh Buchanan, Susie Phillips

## **OPENING PRAYER** (George Phillips)

## **PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS** (George Phillips)

George talked about the importance of Confession. Confession is one of the first things that Catholics drop as they drift away from the faith. It is not about changing the bad behaviors – it is about getting rid of the behaviors that damage our relationship with the Father. It isn't, as Pope Francis said, "a trip to the dry cleaners."

George then read the guidance for the Parish Council from the Archdiocese Handbook. The Parish Council is the visioning body for the parish, and evangelization is to be at the heart of all the council does: a priority in planning, and at the forefront of all work of the council.

Third, George mentioned that one of the goals for this year is transparency, and we will look for opportunities to talk to parishioners directly, so they understand who the council members are and what the council does. His proposal is to do a meet-and-greet at coffee and doughnuts periodically throughout the year, to be available to talk to parishioners and gather their thoughts.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. MINUTES**

June meeting minutes were approved as written.

### **2. SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE (Sam Guerra)**

Chris Druand is no longer associated with St. Mary's social media. Sam and Meghan Schuler will be administering the social media avenues, and will concentrate on Facebook and Instagram for this year. The focus will be on St. Mary's events, with local events and information, with pictures and videos. They have started with "Friday Funnies" on Instagram to generate interest. Meghan and Sam would like to have a training session, perhaps next month, to show people how to join. We need parishioners who go onto the Facebook account to "like" and comment on the information in order to get the word out on the content.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. IDENTIFY COMMISSION AND OTHER PC REPRESENTATIVES**

A representative to the Parish Council is needed for each group below. The Chairpersons and Secretaries are also identified, as they stand now.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Chairperson/Leader</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Representative to Parish Council</b>
Christian Service		TBD	Rotating
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			Jim Armistead
Worship		Mary Pat Soisson	Hugh Buchanan
Youth		NA	Matt Ongcapin

### **2. ROADBLOCKS FOR THIS MONTH'S CHAPEL LEADER: EVANGELIZATION**

Evangelization Committee is hosting the ChristLife program again this year - with the Discovering Christ module starting on October 6. Volunteers are needed to help with various roles, such as small group facilitators. There will be a short training session for anyone who is open to being a small group facilitator. The facilitator's job is to guide the discussion for a table of up to 7 participants, and to guide the discussion and keep it on track.

A proposed commission/committee goal is to have 2-3 new members for each group this year. One opportunity would be at the Stewardship Fair in October.

### **3. HOW TO ADDRESS TOP TWO STRATEGIC CONCERNS:**

These were identified by the parish council previously. This year, in addition to the month-to-month business, these are concerns that the parish council can work to at a higher level. This month's discussion is below.

***First Concern: "We have parishioners with a lot to offer who aren't as involved as they should be."***

<p>Proposal: PC/Commission meeting times – Saturday morning vs. Weeknight</p>	<p>There has been discussion in past years about whether Saturday mornings or a weeknight is the best time for the Commissions and Parish Council meetings. It was suggested at a recent staff meeting that perhaps some volunteers aren't becoming involved because they are not available on Saturday morning. Father Stan said that we are unique among other parishes for (1) meeting on Saturday mornings, and (2) having the commission meeting and parish council meeting held at the same time. Parish commissions may meet on various weeknights, and parish council meetings at a different time. Fr. Stan likes the format where all parish volunteers come together once a month - they can socialize, they can get to know each other, they can hear a message from the pastor, and they can share information across commissions and the council all at the same time. He has enjoyed the format for the past 13 years. We have attempted to meet on a Wednesday evening, and we found that the participation did not increase. How could we find out if there is a better day? He is open to suggestions and ideas to get as many people to participate as possible.</p>
<p>Proposal: Create a Commission Trustee/Core role (3 year term)</p>	<p>Father Stan also asked "How do we get people to participate in commissions?" One of the ideas is to perhaps formalize some positions on the commission. It would be similar to the Knights of Columbus model - trustees, with staggered terms, who oversee the function of the commission. We would look for three people who would commit to a three-year term who would take ownership of the work of the commission, who would provide some vision and direction, and would be the go-to people. They would provide energy and direction. Jay suggested that we start out with one trustee per commission this year, and add to it next year. Hugh asked how different this is from what we have now, where a typical commission has different people as parish council representative, and one person as secretary taking minutes. Discussion: some commissions membership is not this robust, and some commissions have sub-committees to work on bigger projects, and those members do not need to attend the commission meetings. Saturday commission meetings could be strategic for these roles, and sub-committees could meet as required at other times. There might even be a need to define the roles/goals for some of the commissions. Suggestion is to use the secretary-vice chair-chairperson roles be the trustees, and members rolls up from one office to the next. George suggested that the PC put some thought into what these roles would be.</p>

***Second Concern: "We let most aspects of our culture 'evolve' rather than deliberately creating a parish culture to support our vision."***

<p>Discussion:</p>	<p>Fr. Stan: What role does faith play in people's lives? How can we encourage making faith and religion something effective in our lives? How do we encourage this, inspire this? George brought up goal clarity and process clarity.</p>
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## COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service		Father Stan gave the update. CS would like everyone to participate in the October 1 Mercy-in-Action day. Information is in the bulletin, narthex, website, and there is a sign-up-genius site.
Education	Sam Guerra	Social Media update was discussed. The Chair this year will be Sam, Vice Chair is Meghan Schuler, Secretary is Tom Wietchy. A youth mass is being planned (high school, perhaps middle school) by Matt O. Matt can give the PC a status in October. Religious Education reports that GIFT is starting up, and we have 6 people in RCIA. An upcoming event will be EPIC, on Sundays, hosted by Peggy Casing.
Evangelization	George Phillips	Last year's accomplishments and this year's plans were discussed in the chapel deep-dive prior to the meeting. The committee's plan is to continue with major activities such as ChristLife (starting with Discovering Christ opening on October 6), Nightfever, St. Paul Street Evangelization, and the parish library and book distribution programs.
Fellowship	John Schuler	The commission meeting included a debrief of the recent parish picnic, which was a great success. Katherine Greig will be the chairman for the picnic next year. SVDP Harvest fundraiser is scheduled in October, and Bunco will be taking place soon. They would be good events to advertise on Social Media.
Finance		No report.
HFRS	Cheryl Garneau	The year is off to a good start with opening mass at St. Andrew and fall festival Sep. 16. Enrollment is good at 838. Last year there were 3 Kindergarten classes. This year, there are 4 classes at each grade level. The new staff is doing a great job in getting word out regarding the opportunity for area families to send their students to the school. One of the 3 fundraisers, the Annual Appeal, will be moved to the fall this year. Letters are going out to all parishioners asking for support, and Oct 1-2 there will be speakers after all masses.
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Susie Phillips	The new vicar has been announced as Fr. Jim Keane from St. Damien's in Pontiac. Thank you to Hugh Buchanan who has volunteered to be one of the St. Mary representatives to the Vicariate Pastoral Council (VPC). The first meeting of the VPC is tentatively scheduled for October 4.
Seniors	Michaeleen Dolinski	There was a field trip to "Our Lady of Consolation." There is a trip being planned to Turkeyville. There was much discussion about the SOS dinner, and then a show of hands voted to continue supporting this next year.
Stewardship	Jim Armistead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Stewardship Fair will be held October 19. This is a separate event from the interest survey (census). For the fair, the various parish groups will continue to come and present their group, and have some presence there. There will be a table available for each group at the fair. The question is: would the fair be open after all three masses.</li> <li>2. George would like it noted that the goal for each of the commissions to get two new members this year: one by December, and one by the spring.</li> <li>3. Clem asked whether we are looking for tactical or strategic members, and the answer is "both." Bringing a member in for a tactical role can lead to them becoming a strategic member. SOS is a good example: there were many new participants this year. Nightfever and the Festival of the Hills tent with SPSE also had many new people, and participation by other parishes.</li> </ol>

Worship	Hugh Buchanan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prayer service after mass for start of SOS was not well attended. The Thursday night service was well-attended (with song and prayer). The highlight of the service was a guest standing up and speaking about her gratitude for the experience. The suggestion is to repeat the evening service.</li> <li>2. Hugh also brought up the proposal to have people available after weekend masses to pray for those who request these personal, hands-on prayers. There are many people with burdens. Worship will work on a proposal for intercessory prayer teams to be available after masses.</li> <li>3. Choir started up in September.</li> <li>4. Prayer of the Faithful writers annual calendar is being developed, and letters of commitment are going out to the prior-year's writers. There will be training for prayer writers, and liturgical readers, led by Manresa leaders, either here or at Manresa.</li> <li>5. On October 13, there is a concert, and another one before Christmas. These concerts would be an opportunity for evangelization.</li> <li>6. There was discussion about the recent high-demand for after-mass speaker time. The proposal is to move the speakers before mass, so as to not to disrupt the worship.</li> <li>7. The Good News minute has also morphed into announcements as well. It should be community-building thing, with personal milestones, not event announcements.</li> </ol>
Youth	Matt Ongcapin	<p>Matt Ongcapin will be the representative to Parish Council this year. In Matt's absence today, Sam Guerra announced that Matt is going to work with SMYG to coordinate an upcoming "Youth Mass" or masses this year for high school and possibly middle school attendance. All of the roles would be taken by the youth. Time and dates are TBD.</p>

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, QUESTIONS**

Next agenda: Old business will include voting on the meet-and-greet opportunity at coffee and doughnuts. Laura Corrian sets the coffe-and-doughtnuts schedule. We also will continue to work on the two strategic drivers. Susie will bring in an "org chart" of the council to review what the make-up is for new (and old) members.

## **CLOSING PRAYER** (Father Stan)

## **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

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

## REMAINING MEETINGS

<b>SMOTH Parish Council Meetings</b>	<b>Parish Council Prayer Leader and “Deep Dive” area for the Chapel Opening Prayer</b>
Oct. 15	Stewardship
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