

St. Mary's Education Commission Minutes, 11-19-2016

Attendance: Present: Samantha Guerra, Tom Wietchy, Peggy Casing, Cheryl Garneau, Matthew Ongcapin. Absent: Suzie Phillips, Meghan Schuler.

1. Chairperson Samantha Guerra opened the meeting and passed out a Handout listing the **Old Business:** Social Media Update and **New Business:** 1. Ed Commission & December Chapel Opening Presentation. 2. Religious Ed. 3. HFRS. 4. Evangelization. 5. Youth. 6. Agape. Before she got to the Business at hand, Samantha followed up on the morning presentation by the Stewardship Commission and tried to get the Commission's take on the 3 questions posed by the Pontiac Vicariate: 1. ) The Most Exciting Activity of the Parish this Past Year: A.) The emphasis on improving Social Media within the Parish. B.) S.A.W. C.) Success of M.S.P. (the Middle School Program). 2.) The Greatest Challenge in Your Parish: A.) The need to make Catholics better informed about their Faith and spread that to Others. B.) Echoing the feeling that the Rebuild Survey could have been more successful. C.) What is the Dream of our Parish as a Faith Based Community: 1.) Make Church more relevant to our parishioners. B.) Use Social Media to better promote "Church."
2. After the above was discussed, Samantha then proceeded to discuss Old Business. Samantha said that St. Mary's has 93 followers on Instagram with the hope that they can soon reach 100. Samantha stated that soon there would be a My Parish App available that will connect people to the parish website.
3. As far as New Business, Samantha said that we needed to prepare something for December 17, the next month's Chapel Opening: a Prayer/Theme, Information about: Members, Mission Statement, 2015-16 Accomplishments, 2016/2017 Goals, Roadblocks/challenges, and additional information. She also wanted to discuss if members were agreeable to bring snacks. As far as 2016/2017 Goals, the Group has been working on: a youth Mass, improving social media, helping Agape continue its success.
4. After that, Samantha had Peggy Casing go over the activities within the Religious Education: Office. Peggy stated that her office supports any education activity: including Gift, sacramental preparation, the junior youth group, SMYG, young adult (Agape), marriage preparation, divorce support, and adult formation including RCIA,, Bible Study, and Faith Sharing. Cheryl Garneau briefly reviewed how she represents Holy Family Regional School, reporting to the Parish Council how the school is doing since St. Mary's is a sponsoring parish and its individual members are being asked to

add to that by individual support. HFRS has reached out during the years to have St. Mary's public school students participating in CYO Sports Activities. HFRS students will be encouraged to participate in St. Mary's MSP (Middle School Program). The commission discussed the "roadblocks/challenges" that the commission faces figuring "How to Get Information to People with Different Communication Receptors. Hopefully more Adult Formation can be added for people on the website. Hopefully, the commission's efforts with social media will help this effort. Another challenge is "keeping our youth from falling away."

5. Peggy Casing said that she would put together a template for our presentation on December 17<sup>th</sup>, one which would have an Advent theme along with a reading. The group was responsive to the idea that we would contribute to a Pot Luck for the rest of the parish commission members.

The Meeting ended as the Parish Council Meeting was about to begin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Wietchy