

# St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

November 19, 2016

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

**Present: George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Cheryl Garneau, Jim Armistead, Carol Gunther, John Schuler, Samantha Guerra, Michaeleen Dolinski, Hugh Buchanan, Bill Hill, Julie Tyszka, Matthew Ongcapin**

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

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

1. George talked about learning about the Commissions from the deep dive.
2. George talked about St. Michael's (Dewitt, MI) letter and handbook given to his daughter for the baptism of their baby. George read the letter.
3. George reviewed the handbook. Inside were details on the sacrament of Baptism. George briefly reviewed each section of the handbook, including a master checklist, and sections on "after the baptism", annual prayers for your God Child, and gifts.
4. Bill Hill: Do we do anything like this here? George: I don't think we do.
5. Michaeleen: The Deacon gives an hour presentation to parents/ God Parents.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **MINUTES:** October meeting minutes were approved as written. (Hugh Buchanan motions, John Schuler seconds)
2. **Update on November Meet & Greet (M&G):** George reviewed M&G surveys completed. George recognized Hugh Buchanan and Bill Hill for their activity at the M&G and for promoting the survey. George reviewed preliminary survey results. About 20 surveys were filled out. Likes: Music. Suggestion: P\Some people wanted more reverence. 8 responses from volunteers, 9 from Non-volunteers. Somebody wanted info on Christian Service. George wants suggestions on how to reach people. Personal invitation works best. Maybe we can work in 2 person teams (Young and old together) to door knock. Next M&G: December 11.
3. **Core member definition:** Selection process changed at bottom: Core member would lead on strategy. George challenges every commission to get 2 or 3 new members.
4. **Approval of core member definition:** Postponed until December.
5. Strategy review: Postponed until December.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Roadblocks for Fellowship November (John Schuler):** Looking for new people. One member wants to leave.
2. **Carol Gunther Update on November 5<sup>th</sup> Hospitality Training.** In the morning, Cheryl Wohlfert talked about how hospitality opens the door to evangelization. We need to welcome people to our Father's house. Some discussion on how to personalize the Hail Mary and prayer in general. Carol thought she

was a great speaker. In the afternoon, a booklet was reviewed and it was all business. The session was led by Kathleen Lindemann. Booklet Items: Commitment to Hospitality and Core behavior. Carol thinks we need to form a Hospitality or Welcoming team. Welcoming is very powerful. We could include possible parking lot greeters. We need to pay attention to our environment: sight, sound, and smells are all very powerful. Bathrooms are our secret weapon. They are very well kept and clean. We could use better signage for our restrooms. The Information Center (IC) should be manned all the time, and not cluttered. Maybe pay someone to man. We should be able to register new members at the IC. Office is open to do that. Ushers should be friendly and welcoming. Proposal: name tag Sunday. Make a point of introducing yourself to someone you don't know, and ask if there isn't something you could pray for in their lives. Bill Hill: Make prayer teams available after Mass. Hugh Buchanan: Worship has discussed this idea and thought it was a very good idea. They are looking for someone to lead the effort. Carol Gunther: Ministers of Mass should pray together before Mass to get in the right frame of mind, and wish people God's blessing and a good week. Prayers on the screen is good aide in worshipping. We could send parishioners off with a warm good-bye. Hospitality Training was very good. Ushers could be a big part of welcoming team. Jay Fedewa: Ushers need better communications concerning what is going on in Mass that weekend.

3. **Challenge: Please review hospitality handbook in each commission.**
4. **10 things you can do to get more out of the Mass.** George has a hard copy. Carol Gunther: We want to make people feel like they want to comeback.
5. **Evangelization one pager:** George Phillips: Create one for each commission. Here is what we are and what we do. What are your accomplishments? People on committee. Have it available for M&G and recruiting.
6. **Set goal of getting 2 new members in each commission by May 2017.** George Phillips: Share stories of how we got new members.
7. **Vicariate Parish Questions:** Hugh Buchanan: For all commissions/activities. This is a way to identify areas of excellence, places where we might need help, and to identify best practices. (How did you do that?) Will tabulate question responses and send to Jay. Hugh read from today's responses. **See attachment.**

## COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service	Bill Hill	Working on "Parish-Wide"Calendar for activities of the year, and will create a Bulletin insert. George Phillips: Create a war room wall on schedule or make a virtual one. Bill Hill: Proposing alms giving for the year in Lent. We are soliciting causes. Hugh Buchanan suggested ST. Charles Lwanga. Bill Hill: What would the monies be used for? CS would like to collect for the same group all Lent. Looking for suggestions. Should be regional.
Education	Sam Guerra	Social media continues to go well. We now have 93 followers on Instagram. Please send pictures to <a href="mailto:socialmedia@smoth.org">socialmedia@smoth.org</a> . Getting a lot of likes. My parish app will be debuting on weekend of December 4 <sup>th</sup> . Carol Gunther: Who manages the app? Sam Guerra: I will look into that. Bill Hill: Maybe links to our website or USCCB would be a good idea. Sam Guerra: RCIA is celebrating Rite of Acceptance at tomorrow's 9 am Mass.
Evangelization	George Phillips	Talked about the Commission one pager. We are trying to embed Evangelization into our DNA. We did a book giveaway during polling on Nov 8th. Put out 100 books and they were all gone by late morning. The Christmas book giveaway is "Resisting Happiness" by Matthew Kelly. Jay Fedewa: We should try to "sell" the church at funeral luncheons. The Christ

		life programs use the gym. We need better Audio/Video equipment, as it helps sell a parish. EvC has put up several hundred dollars to get new equipment. Jay Fedewa has taken on researching new equipment. If you have money available in your commissions that could be used to purchase, please discuss the idea with your commissions. Progress on the electronic sign was discussed. We are basically waiting on funding. We have a great location for one. Trying to get it as a goal for our next CSA.
Fellowship	John Schuler	We are working on a new event.
Finance		No one present.
HFRS	Cheryl Garneau	Trying to raise money for an HVAC system. (\$600,000) The 8 <sup>th</sup> graders won 23 medals at Brother Rice scholastic Olympics. We are in the middle of our Christmas outreach. We are collecting coats for St. Leo's charter school. 53 homeless children attend this charter school. One goal of our outreach is to establish a grandparent library at American House in honor of Dee Parent. Carol Gunther: This could be a possible bulletin article.
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Hugh	Discussed PAV questionnaire. See attached responses.
Seniors	Michaeleen Dolinski	We took a bus trip to Turkeyville. It was eventful. We are planning a Christmas Luncheon.
Stewardship	Jim Armistead	We are working the skills inventory. We received responses from 13% of the solicitations. We will resend the survey in January 2017 via e-mail. We will include the inventory in the Christmas book giveaway. We redesigned the picture on our donation envelopes. We will rotate communion/confirmation/etc pictures.
Worship	Hugh Buchanan	Preparations are underway for Advent and Christmas liturgies and various other liturgical events. Decorations for Christmas will be placed outside the church on 12/10 and inside the church on 12/23. The December 9th offsite with Readers and Prayers of the Faithful writers will be postponed as only three people could make the dates/times. Hugh will schedule something on-site during Lent with Tim December. All of the schedules for Altar Servers, Prayers of the Faithful Writers are complete and disseminated. The Reader schedule will come out in December. Music Ministry is busy with new hymns and a concert at SMOTH on December 18th at 3 PM...come one, come all.
Youth		<p>Middle School Program (MSP)</p> <p>The middle school program (grades 6-8) have already had a few meetings, all of which have been very successful. Last meeting, the middle schoolers Skyped the leader of a charity called Ryan's Well, a charity in Africa. The middle school program has become very successful. A testament to this is the higher attendance by freshman and sophomores in the SMYG program, who had previously been part of the MSP program. They have obviously been positively affected by the program to the point that they continued their faith formation into high school.</p> <p>High School Program (SMYG)</p>

		<p>The high school program has also had some wonderful developments. Many members of the group have stepped up to challenge the group to live deeper in their faith. Two freshman challenged the group by creating a Random Acts of Kindness Calendar that encourages people to be more kind to their communities. Also, the idea for a youth mass and celebration has been developed with hopes of Mass occurring after Easter. A planning team consisting of representatives from each grade (1 freshman, 1 sophomore, 1 junior, and 2 seniors) has been formed. Also, the high school program has started having new and exciting kinds of topics that emphasize Catholicism in our lives. For example, we had a meeting about the Presidential election and what kind of candidate would a Catholic look for.</p>
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, QUESTIONS**

Round table:

John Schuler: Shared a story about a parish he knows that needed a new HVAC system and the Priest was taking donations for each mile he ran in a marathon.

George Phillips: Please look at the core member sheet so we can vote on that on December 17th.

**CLOSING PRAYER** (Hugh Buchanan)

**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>
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