

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

March 18,2017

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

Present: George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Susie Phillips, John Schuler, Bill Hill, John Hundiak, Dan Greig, Beth Belesky, Meghan Schuler, Mat Ongcapin, Father Stan, Julie Tyszka, Denise Kay

OPENING PRAYER (George Phillips)

PRESIDENT’S THOUGHTS (George Phillips)

George talked about the good news that has come in lately: New Member dinners, which have not been held recently, are back. The first one is scheduled for post-11:00 mass on Sunday April 9. The second good news was the announcement that the electronic sign is ½ funded and will be used for the CSA surplus money this year. This is a great opportunity to reach out to the public and to invite them to the many opportunities that we have here. George also talked about the gift of volunteering – that we usually ask for people to volunteer to help with a specific cause, but when have we looked back and said “Gee, I wish I wouldn’t have bothered to volunteer for that.” What we learn from volunteering is that it is not just for helping others, it is good for us, too. George talked about the recent Evangelization Committee meeting, how the Holy Spirit was truly working and we had 13 people attend with a wonderful, lively discussion. Some of the ideas discussed will be suggested to the specific commissions that they affect, such as Worship.

George then talked about an inspiring article passed on to him by Denise Kay: the story of the paralytic lowered down through the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching. When this man’s friends were blocked by the crowd, they had to make the decision of whether to give up, or keep trying. They didn’t give up. They were all in. They acted – they moved- instinctively, and out of love. Their plan of climbing to the roof was risky, and perhaps anti-social. But they seized the moment – that is what faith does, and this gets God’s attention. “Sometimes God is so touched by what we do, that he gives us what we need, and not just what we ask for.” In conclusion, for the things that we are trying to do here, we cannot out-gift God. He will bless our efforts.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES

February meeting minutes were approved as written.

PARISH COUNCIL ‘MEET AND GREET’ AFTER MASSES

Thank you to Clem and Deb Valot for setting up last time, and thank you for all those that participate. The meetings have been successful. People are coming and picking up our one-pagers, and filling out the surveys. The table is starting to be recognized, and conversations are started. PLEASE SEND the electronic copies of your ONE-PAGERS and “deep dives” to George.

TOP TWO STRATEGIC CONCERNS

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

The three leadership positions for each commission has been approved.

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

Father Stan and Susie gave the update on the post-Synod gatherings. There was interest from the AOD with “how is it going at the parishes.” There was a tremendous amount of hope, joy, confidence, and enthusiasm expressed by those synod members that attended. There is tremendous anticipation of the Archbishop’s letter, which he will release on Pentecost.

NEW BUSINESS

ROADBLOCKS FOR JANUARY CHAPEL LEADER (YOUTH)

Matt Ongcapin covered the Youth activities at St. Mary’s, including MSP and SMYG. See the attachment.

INTERIM COMMISSION/COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2017

George reminded the commissions of the goals:

- (1) The “1 Pagers” are coming in and being used at Meet-and-Greets monthly.**
- (2) Two new members are needed for each commission.** Beth suggested that the commission reach out to former volunteers and ask them to join.
- (3) Hospitality: Beth.** Talking about an all-out push for hospitality before each mass. It would take up to 10 people. We would have a couple of people at each door. We need a person to coordinate this to have all the spots filled. Don’t have that person yet. Vision is that people are present about 35 minutes before mass and pray in chapel together first. Beth is working on a paragraph to explain what the duties would be. We would start by reaching out to people who were greeters. These volunteers would also wear a lanyard or some identifying thing. A roadblock is that the Worship Committee is already very busy during worship. So, the Worship Commission needs outside help, particularly a team leader for each mass: Saturday liturgy, 8:30 Easter Sunday, and 11:00/11:15 Easter Sunday. Beth will reach out to Laura Corrion to see if there are people with greeter/leadership skills from the inventory. This is a great opportunity for families to volunteer together. Dan will be setting up a sign-up genius, but we need the personal invitation. Beth will send the paragraph explanation of this new volunteer role to George, who will send out to the commissions. Denise suggested that we can use the wheelchair to help the handicapped enter, and then can park the car. This is done at another parish.

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS SUPPORT

Susie is building a network of information sources of vocations information. She will use the bulletin and website to pass along information on discernment, videos, inspiration and will try to have information going out frequently. We can also use Facebook for pictures and videos. There was also discussion about expansion of the altar server program to build in components of mentoring, recognition, and fellowship.

SMOTH EASTER GIFT ('FORMED' AND ROLL OUT

The gift is the code. There is a lot on the website for children as well as adults. We should put the code in the bulletin every week, and pose it in a form that piques people’s interest. This should provide Catholic content, and could be more popular than the library/DVDs. Need to get the word out to the Eucharistic ministers to help with distribution. Meghan suggested, and Beth will execute on updating the email addresses to the EM’s.

OUTDOOR ELECTRONIC SIGN AND CSA: The outdoor electronic sign will be funded by CSA overage. Susie gave the upcoming CSA schedule. Chairpersons are Nick Pfeffer and Jim Campbell. There are many events from the SMOTH calendar that we could have advertised this past year if we had a sign, and this is only ½ of it. Advertising an event is “informational,” but we can also use the sign for “inspirational” topics.

Highlights of this year’s CSA schedule:

- a. April 17: major donor letters sent
- b. April 21: CSA envelopes available in narthex
- c. April 22 and 23: Kickoff speakers at each mass, and electronic giving available in gym after masses
- d. April 24: Mail envelopes not picked up in narthex
- e. May 1: E-mail blast to parishioners.

COMMISSION REPORTS

<p>Christian Service</p>	<p>Bill Hill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almsgiving is going well. Had about 12 people at the prayer service last week. • Offering a presentation on Humnae Vitae on March 26 • Trying to set up a ministry around Mental Health, and working on framing it, and a leader is needed • Brought up the current prayer chain, with Carol Hannah, who takes the prayer intention from the chapel box and other sources. Does this prayer chain belong under Christian Service? Where does it belong: Christian Service, Evangelization, or Worship? Father Stan said that it needs to belong somewhere? Bill suggested that this move to Evangelization since they are staffing the Friday Rosary outreach. This was approved. • A connection with St. Charles Lwanga was discussed. Father Stan and Father Ted agree that a connection would be good, but we don’t know what that would be. Father Stan said we need to do something specific. We need to meet with their leadership group to discuss what they want and how we can work together. Bill was thinking of doing something jointly from a service perspective. CS will try to get something arranged.
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Education	Meghan Schuler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocations/ youth mass, need volunteers • Tom Wietchy brought in an article about spirituality later in life. There was discussion about what the needs might be for seniors, and if we want to do something more to target seniors. Father Stan said that this is great discussion and this might be an underserved group. Could there be an ad hoc, continuing program, with speakers. The Fellowship would be an important component.
Evangelization	George Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NightFever is scheduled for June 28, the night of the Rochester Hills Fireworks. A LOT OF VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: greeting people on the street, at the door of the church, and those who accompany the visitors to the altar to light a candle. • Also on June 28, we will have the SPSE booth at Borden Park. Volunteers are also needed. Jay noted that last year, it was gratifying how many people were happy to see the Catholic Church represented. • Beth has been the point person on contacting new parishioners. We have a list of 23 new members who will be contacted. • Vocations – talked about using the altar server program, or possibly bringing back the vocations chalice. • Looking at yard signs for parishioners to invite their neighbors, or a “Welcome” sign for new members. • Beth is looking into prayer teams after masses.
Fellowship	John Schuler	<p>Tonight is the Euchre party. It is for fun – not a tournament.</p> <p>For the Youth Mass post-mass party, how will we cover the cost of pizza afterward? We have an account with Hungry Howie’s – ask Chris K to order.</p>
Finance	Arnie V – sent update	<p>Arnie is going through the budgets. Please contact him if you need a status on where your group stands for this year.</p> <p>Arnie is also actively working on next year’s budget.</p>
HFRS	Father Stan	<p>Recent fundraiser with auction was successful. There was also good fellowship for those affiliated with the school. They raised about \$100,000.</p> <p>Their current project is to convert the recently-purchased property into a sports field. There is a committee formed to promote the development. For the time being it will be leveled and grass planted. The current discussion also includes whether or not the field should have artificial turf.</p>
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Susie Phillips/ Hugh Buchanan	<p>Add update from PAV minutes. Push to go back to “Together in Faith” with partner parishes. There is an attempt to get information for emergencies. CARA at Georgetown University does Catholic statistics, and for the four regions in the US, the Midwest has 37 percent of the churches in the US, but only 18% of the Catholics, so we are overbuilt. The other regions of the US (Eastern region, South, and Westz) are building, and are building mega-churches. There has been a shift from the East and Midwest to the South and West. Clergy: in 1940’s there was ~ 600 Catholics per priest, and now there are about 1800/priest.</p>
Seniors	Julie Tyszka	<p>Had a meeting this week, it was a social gathering, and setting up a trip to Stahl’s car museum 26 Mile & Gratiot in April and visit to “Then and Now” in June, and go on Diamond Jack boat.</p>
Stewardship	Carol Gunther	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on promoting on-line giving, which helps with the consistency of donations. Currently there are about 330 between on-line and ACH out of about 600 regular givers.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are going back to Newcomer Dinners quarterly, April, July, October, and January. First one will be April 9. Other groups are invited to come and to witness what they like about St. Mary's. Light dinner: subs, etc. & tour of the facility. Do we have a gift we could give to new parishioners? Order something from Dynamic Catholic? Beth suggested a CD.
Worship	Hugh Buchanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most discussion was about the welcoming activities. Promoting Divine Mercy, which will take place the Sunday after Easter. Taize service will take place Holy Thursday at 10:00PM. Stations of Light, a post-Easter Taize type service is scheduled for May 3. June 17, would like participation for the Corpus Christ possession. Need people to be in the procession
Youth	Matt Ongcapin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plans for the Youth Mass are moving along. Eucharistic Minister Training will support this. Matt is talking to Mary Bomarito about details. Need help with filling the EM spots and a few usher spots. MSP had their confirmation retreat, with theme of "It's Cool to be Catholic." HS started practice for Living Stations of the Cross

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENTS, QUESTIONS

Carol Gunther mentioned that on St. James bulletin had a cut-out coupon on page 1 of their bulletin after the pastor's letter to get more information or volunteer. The suggestion is to put this in the Easter bulletin.

Denise Kay announced that Steve Ray will be a guest speaker at St. Irenaeus on August 27. Plan is to ask for a free will donation just to cover the cost of the food.

Jay asked for the meeting minutes within one week. George asked for the one-pagers and deep dives to be re-sent to him electronically.

CLOSING PRAYER (Father Stan)

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
Apr. 22	Christian Service
May. 20	Staff
Jun. 17	Finance

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 (Alternate: Julie Tyszka)
Stewardship	Carol Gunther		Jim Armistead (Carol Gunther, alternate)
Worship		Mary Pat Soisson	Hugh Buchanan
Youth		NA	Matt Ongcapin