

# St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

April 22, 2017

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

**Present:** George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Susie Phillips, Jim Armistead, Carol Gunther, Cheryl Garneau, Clem Valot, Meghan Schuler, Sam Guerra, Father Stan, John Schuler, Hugh Buchanan, Bill Hill, Michaelleen Dolinski, Denise Kay

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

## **CSA Update** (Nick Pfeffer)

AOD assessment for our parish is \$173,000. The committee decided to set our parish goal at \$200,000. We met our goal last year. If we can make this goal this year, we should be able to pay for the electronic sign. Nick will be speaking after the masses this weekend to announce CSA. After each mass, there is a need for volunteers to man three I-pads to take pledges after mass this weekend. Nick and his son-in-law will be there, so he needs just 1 -2 additional people after each mass.

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

**George talked about our being an Easter people.** What does an Easter people look like? From the start of Lent when we marked ourselves with ashes. In what way are we now marked to proclaim that we are an Easter people? We must ask ourselves now: How will we proclaim Easter, and what is our Easter resolution? The early Christians stood out at how they treated everyone they encountered – “Look how they love one another.” We are called to remember these two most powerful words “Jesus rose.” We must conduct ourselves in genuine hope, and to spread that hope to others in all we think, say, and do.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **MINUTES**

March meeting minutes were approved as written.

### **PARISH COUNCIL ‘MEET AND GREET’ AFTER MASSES**

We were off for Easter, and there are two remaining meetings this year: May 14 and June 11. These meetings have provided the opportunity to discuss the parish council and commissions with parishioners at these meetings in the gym. They show that the leadership is engaged and wants to reach out, and we have been able to foster some new interest in volunteering.

### **TOP TWO STRATEGIC CONCERNS**

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

George asked each of the commissions to try to determine three core members by May or June. Evangelization had three people volunteer. Thank you to Jay Fedewa, Mark Joyce, and Denise Kay who volunteered for Evangelization.

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

Beth Belesky attended the post-synod gathering as our synod representative from St. Mary’s. Father Stan noted that the Archbishop has continued to emphasize the aspect of our becoming joyful missionary disciples – going out and proclaiming Jesus, and encouraging others to know Him as we do. We are to be beacons of hope. That has to boil down to practicalities. We are all waiting for the Archbishop’s statement at Pentecost. This is the focus of everything going on in the archdiocese right now.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ROADBLOCKS FOR JANUARY CHAPEL LEADER (Christian Service)**

Bill Hill, Sister Grace, and Karen Schenk covered the Christian Service activities at St. Mary’s, including multiple activities and accomplishments by multiple sub-teams. Thank you to Christian Service for the wonderful Chapel presentation. Please see the attachment to the minutes.

### **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.** The new-member challenge will be tabulated on a chart that Meghan Schuler was kind enough to create. The goal is two new members by June.
- (3.) **Hospitality: Beth led the activity at the Easter masses.** Hugh covered the follow-up from Worship. This activity needs coordination. Maybe slow growth will be needed: get a few volunteers to cover each mass, and ask them to recruit others for that mass. Reaching out to a group such as widows and widowers might be a way to grow this into an ongoing activity. This is high on the radar list. It might have been difficult to get a full group of volunteers because of people either traveling or having family here to attend mass with.

### **RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS SUPPORT**

Susie is building a network of information sources of vocations information. One new idea found in a church bulletin from another parish is a “Religious Order of the Week” column. Hugh said that for the “Prayers of the Faithful,” a prayer for vocations will be included once per month. Father Stan reminded us that we have our third year seminarian, Tom Merlo, coming to talk to us for CSA. Sister Grace has put information up on the bulletin board. George talked about a possible hand-out of a prayer booklet for vocations. The AOD has a new coordinator of vocations to the priesthood, Fr. Joe Horn. There are activities coordinated through this office. Another parish prays for vocations at the end of each mass. The goal of all of these things is to keep up vocation awareness.

### **PARISH PICNIC**

Kathryn Greig sent George an update. The first meeting took place with good attendance, but more are welcome. The next meeting will be May 9 at 7:00 PM. The theme this year will be “The Circus.” Plan is to charge \$5 per person. There was then a lot of discussion about the plan for the picnic: is it a community event for the parish only, or to invite the larger community? Leaning was toward asking for a \$5 donation per person, but making the picnic open to the public. There was also discussion about asking the Knights of Columbus to help with cooking the hot dogs. It was noted that it is very difficult to plan food when we don’t know the number of people coming. There was also a suggestion to ask people to bring a pot-luck dish to supplement the hot dogs as the main meal.

**NIGHTFEVER AND REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:** George wanted to let people know that the date this year is Wednesday June 28. There will be more information given and a request for volunteers made in May and June. There are two venues on that date, and volunteers are needed to support these events, which focus on interface with the public.

- a. Festival of the Hills booth, jointly with St. Paul Street Evangelization
  - i. Goal is to greet attendees of the festival, represent the Catholic church, talk, pray, hand out rosaries, medals and literature. Last year was the first year, and was a great success. People were happy to see Catholics there evangelizing, and hundreds of rosaries and other items were handed out.
- b. Nightfever in the church – invite people into the church after the fireworks (as they are leaving)
  - i. This will be an agenda item next month. Volunteer roles will be explained.

**ST. CHARLES LWANGA/CORPUS CHRISTI/ OTHER/ LIASON:** This discussion opened last year as a result of the joint parish mission with St. Charles Lwanga parish. There has been difficulty getting discussions going with St. Charles Lwanga. We could also consider a sister-parish relationship with another parish within the vicariate. Father Stan suggested that we contact Corpus Christi. He will talk to the pastor there. The question was asked about whether the Archdiocese has a program to partner two parishes together, and it appears that there is not a program in existence. A current issue is the upcoming water/sewer assessment, which is based on paved “impermeable” area of the parish grounds. The cost will be crippling to some parishes in Detroit.

**PC & COMMITTEE/COMMISSION CANDIDATE ELECTIONS:** Commissions need to look at their representative to the Parish Council. The representative is limited to 2 consecutive 2-year terms.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

Christian Service	Bill Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almsgiving is going well. Had about \$2000 in the baby bottle drive. Other monetary donations not counted yet.</li> <li>• There are discussions with St. John Fisher parish in supporting a refugee program</li> <li>• There is a service opportunity on May 3 – serving at Baldwin soup kitchen.</li> <li>• In support of Going Green, we need to consider this with our kitchen use.</li> <li>• SOS will be August 13-20</li> </ul>
Education	Sam Guerra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth mass will be tonight, April 22 at the 5:00 mass. Everyone is encouraged to come.</li> <li>• The Archdiocese is rolling out requirements of religious formation by grade year (Pre-K to Grade 8). The requirements will be the same for Catholic school students and Religious Education students. What the end-of-year testing requirements are is being developed, and may apply only to Catholic School students. Parishes are encouraged to start working on incorporating this now. Peggy thought the “binder” with requirements might be available on line. Sam will follow up on this.</li> </ul>
Evangelization	George Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been discussion about increasing use of the library through location, moving the carts into activity rooms, and the summer advertising program.</li> <li>• Father Stan said that we will also track use of the “Formed” subscription.</li> <li>• St. Paul Street Evangelization will be starting to evangelize in mid-May near the Rochester Hills library.</li> </ul>

		ChristLife “Sharing Christ” retreat needs to move from May 13 to May 21. The parish is invited to experience the retreat, with teachings, adoration, and confession available.
Fellowship	John Schuler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had a successful Euchre party, with some people from outside the parish attending. It was very successful, and we will revisit next year.</li> <li>• The Easter egg hunt was very successful: almost 200 children, plus adults. There were also attendees from outside the parish.</li> <li>• The picnic discussion will be transmitted to the picnic committee so they can really start planning.</li> </ul>
Finance	Arnie V	CSA update was covered previously.
HFRS	Cheryl Garneau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last meeting was held during Holy Week.</li> <li>• Attendance for next year is on track. There tends to be attrition after the Young-5 program. Kindergarten enrollment is being tracked. Other grades are strong – most students will be returning.</li> <li>• Third of three major fundraisers is coming up, an annual raffle, so HFRS may be asking to talk after masses.</li> <li>• End of the year activities coming up: May crownings (May 1, and May 10 at the two campuses.</li> <li>• Finance committee is finalizing the 2017-18 school year budget, including parish subsidies.</li> </ul>
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Susie Phillips/ Hugh Buchanan	The meeting was at St. Joseph in Lake Orion this month. We spent most of the meeting on round table, reporting on the many things going on at the member parishes. We also had good discussions about encouraging vocations, and about the continuing enthusiasm for the synod and anticipation for the Archbishop’s letter at Pentecost. We have been getting good attendance this year – about 20 per meeting, so most parishes and CCRT and Guest House were represented.
Seniors	Michaeleen Dolinski	The trip to the Stahls museum has been cancelled. The date of the next activity “Detroit Then and Now Land and Water” with viewing the river, lunch, etc. is June 13. The bus leaves from the old K-mart parking lot. There is a charge.
Stewardship	Carol Gunther	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent Newcomers luncheon took place on April 9: 17 adults and 9 children attended (9 out of 37 families who registered recently and were invited). Several volunteers spoke about their personal experiences within the parish. The cost of the food was about \$250. Each newcomer family received a welcome bag (parish directory, cookies, Matthew Kelly CD, and a magnet.)</li> <li>• Next newcomer luncheon is July 23. Lessons from this luncheon will be to add playground supervision for the children during the speakers’ time. The event will also support the parish “Going Green” by using porcelain plates instead of paper.</li> </ul>
Worship	Hugh Buchanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth mass today</li> <li>• Recap of Easter and the new expanded greeter ministry</li> <li>• Chris Kozlowski is bringing the Youth group to the upcoming Taize service</li> <li>• The 8:30 Easter mass was at 1,380 people – so if the parish continues to grow, there was discussion about what will we do in the future if we have 1500 or 1800 people come to mass?</li> <li>• Discussed altar service – increasing the number of servers per mass is limited by the number of servers, and we don’t feel comfortable going with servers younger than 4<sup>th</sup> grade, as we do now. We have 80 servers in the parish.</li> <li>• Will check on the advertising plan for the Awaken Ministry, which is coming here in June.</li> </ul>

Youth	No rep today.	• No update
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**ROUNDTABLE**

Meghan: The picture of the article on Easter, which was posted on Facebook got hundreds of shares, and many comments and likes. It was the biggest post ever.

**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>
May. 20	Staff
Jun. 17	Finance

<b>Group</b>	<b>Chairperson/Leader</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Representative to Parish Council</b>
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