

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

May 20, 2017

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

Present: George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Meghan Schuler, Sam Guerra, Jim Armistead, Bill Hill, Cheryl Garneau, John Schuler, Hugh Buchanan, Father Stan, Michaeleen Dolinski, Denise Kay, Susie Phillips

OPENING PRAYER (George Phillips)

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS (George Phillips)

George talked about the role of mass in nourishing us weekly. George read the story of a letter to an editor where the writer complained of going to church regularly, but never remembering a single sermon, and concluding that both he and the preacher had wasted their time. Another reader responded that he did not remember the singular meals that his wife had cooked for him for over 30 years, but he knows that they nourished him and he would not be alive today without them. Case closed on the complaint about “church.”

George further talked about the need to spend some time in introspection, to decide what is important, and then to fight for what is important. We as volunteers need to be striving for excellence as a parish, and promoting all the good that can be done to any potential new volunteers. Ask a new person to “give us a year” or give us “just one meeting” and see what they think.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES

April meeting minutes were approved as written.

PARISH COUNCIL ‘MEET AND GREET’ AFTER MASSES

Last month’s meet-and-greet was canceled due to Mother’s Day weekend and travel plans. The last one of this year will be June 11. Please attend and support after the 9 and 11 o’clock masses if you are able. Thank you to everyone for supporting this over the past year, and for acting as an ambassador for Parish Council and all of the commissions.

TOP TWO STRATEGIC CONCERNS

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

The “new member challenge” is ongoing. Each commission/committee is asked to get two new members. Meghan is tracking this for the Parish Council.

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

Synod update: Father Kean told the vicariate council that the Pentecost document is coming together for the synod. It has a nice visionary quality. There are going to be some “work areas” that will be given to us as a parish – so there will be some concrete direction for the parishes. The content has not been revealed – but it is expected that there will be some things that we will need to do differently in parish life. Father Stan noted that there are two clear themes coming out for the archdiocese, even over the last few years. One is that the church’s reason for existence is evangelization. The second is that people who come to the faith should be transformed. These two themes, and some practical ways of being evangelizers and disciples can be expected.

Parish Profile document: Father Stan also said that the AOD has asked each parish to provide a parish profile, different from just statistic, of what the parish is like and about. Father Stan distributed the proposed “Parish Profile” document, which contains a summary of “Profile” and “Staff” information. He is asking for feedback from the council by next meeting. The proposed “parish profile” document will be sent out with the minutes to gain this feedback.

NEW BUSINESS

ROADBLOCKS FOR MAY LEADER (Staff)

It is acknowledged that the Staff did a good job of inspiring us as “Easter people,” and Father Stan gave a long list of things that the Staff does for our parish on an on-going basis. We have a good relationship between the Staff and the volunteers.

INTERIM COMMISSION/COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2017

George asked everyone to send or resend their one-pagers to him.

- (1.) **The “1 Pagers”** are coming in and being used at Meet-and-Greets monthly.
- (2.) **Two new members** are needed for each commission. On-going through June.
- (3.) **Hospitality at mass:** Hugh reported that Worship discussed this extensively at their commission meeting. Volunteers will be solicited using the pre-mass announcements screen. Participants will be given lanyards to identify them. This is a minimal time commitment, and requirements are simple, too: “Can you smile?” and can you greet people? Families can sign up with their children. The plan is to develop this new ministry over the summer and start officially in the fall.

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS SUPPORT

Susie is building a network of information sources of vocations information, including Alex Kiowor’s binder from his previous work as parish advocate. Susie stated that this ministry needs frequent, by not time-consuming contact. The person who takes on this ministry needs to keep in touch with AOD activities and resources and provide timely information. Susie committed to advertising over the summer, to keep the prayers, inspirations,

and opportunities out there in the bulletin, etc. She will package this up so we can advertise for a volunteer to run this ministry.

George talked about Tom Merlo, our seminarian, coming to speak for CSA. Jim also mentioned the importance of encouraging vocations to the 8th graders at HFRS.

The idea of using the altar server ministry to encourage vocations was discussed. The proposal would be to have the older servers mentor the younger ones, and have the altar servers become a cohesive group -- a group that young people aspire to. This would require some additional activities, perhaps an end-of-year party, periodic get-togethers, possible meeting with our seminarian or other religious, and perhaps having a mass sometime during the year when the servers are all recognized with their families. Other ideas to recognize altar servers were: having first-time servers pictured in the bulletin, having a special blessing for new servers, featuring the altar servers in the bulletin (not just the new ones), have more altar servers scheduled for Easter and Christmas, or having a larger number process in for special feast days, such as Good Shepard Sunday. Hugh will take these ideas back to the Worship commission to discuss how we can use the altar server program to encourage vocations.

PARISH PICNIC

Denise Kay gave the update. The food will be hosted by National Coney Island. The time will be extended to be from noon – three. Entertainment is being scheduled, including acrobats and jugglers, and lots of games are being planned. The cost will be \$5 per person to help cover the food. The picnic will not be advertised as “open to the public,” but parishioners may invite friends and neighbors. Tickets need to be purchased before the picnic, so that the food purchases can be planned.

NIGHTFEVER AND REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:

- (1.) **Festival of the Hills booth, jointly with St. Paul Street Evangelization (from about 2 PM to the Fireworks):** Jay gave the update. The permit for the booth at Borden Park has been purchased. The date this year is Wednesday June 28. Jay has a sign-up sheet for the booth, starting with set-up in the early afternoon. Goal is to greet attendees to the festival to represent the Catholic church, talk, pray, and hand out rosaries, medals and literature. Last year was the first year, and was a great success. Parishioners are needed to volunteer for set-up, evangelizing, and tear-down of the booth. There will be SPSE “experts” to help out.
- (2.) **Nightfever in the church (After the Fireworks, about 10:30 – 12:00)** – Volunteers are needed on the sidewalk to invite passers-by in, to accompany the guests to the altar, and in the church interceding for the guests. Volunteer roles will be explained in more detail at the volunteer dinner on the day of Nightfever.

VICARIATE ROLE / EXPECTATIONS: Hugh explained here will be a discussion at the next Vicariate Council Meeting about “the role of the vicariate.” He read from the AOD green binder about the vision of the vicariate. The vision includes the vicariate supporting the parishes, Catholic schools, institutions and agencies, and ensuring the growth of the Catholic Community. The vicariate should be a resource for the parishes. Susie will send the invitation to the June 6 vicariate council meeting out to the SMOTH parish council. All are invited.

Father Stan also related that previously the PAV was the most active vicariate in the AOD. It was part of building a second campus of HFRS, expand St. Ben’s and St. Joe’s. The vicariate was definitely very active in the areas of sacraments, training leadership, providing workshops, and staff meeting opportunities. It started with the

notion that parishes are not islands, but are connected in faith, and in structure, and in the services that they provide. Since the parishes are responsible for an “area” there was a recognition that parishes with more resources need to be helping the parishes with fewer resources, and the result was CCRT and other activities. But two things are needed: leadership and communication.

We can look to the already-established pastoral priorities of the AOD, which are executed through the vicariate and parishes. One example was an examination of how the sacrament of the sick is administered in hospitals etc. There was a survey, there was discussion, there was a letter to the Archdiocese, there were workshops that touched on mental illness, on care givers, and a 3-year program ensued. CCRT is another shining example of what was done together in Christian Service. It was an example of recognizing the need and addressing it.

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. See the chart at the end of the minutes with the proposed commission leaders and parish council representatives as they currently planned for next year. We will try to finalize these roles at the June parish council meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service	Bill Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting about refugee resettlement upcoming on May 22. Group of local churches is discussing sponsoring a refugee family starting in August, pending getting parish support. The family would be identified by Samaritas, a non-profit organization, who helps settle families year-round, and handles several hundred families per year. • Sister parish discussion still in limbo. • Bill asked if we are familiar with the principles of the “Communities of Salt and Light,” and it was agreed that it is time for an update to the parish about this philosophy. We could have Sister Grace come in to a meeting next fall. • The parish collected \$3000 during Lent to support Right to Life agencies.
Education	Sam Guerra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Boismier reported about the future of Agape. Her salary as administrator will no longer be funded by the PAV. The programming costs have been paid recently through the AOD, but there is a lack of future funding for Agape. • Kim gave a testimony to the role of Agape in the participant’s lives – the retreats, the personal support, the encouraging of vocations, and people who met their future spouse. • Some parishes have a parish-level young adult group, but Agape bridges between parishes, and provides the bandwidth needed to administer activities such as the youth retreats, where a parish would likely not have enough participants to schedule this activity on their own. • There are some young people who have been regulars at Agape activities who are interested in stepping up to the administrative roles, but they would need to develop the skills and maintain the cohesiveness that Kim provided. • The immediate future of Agape is in flux, but discussions will continue, and we are looking for some possible direction from the Synod as well.
Evangelization	George Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay talked about upcoming Evangelization booth and Nightfever on June 28 • The second running of “ChristLife” finishes today with the Sharing Christ retreat.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPSE is starting up again for the year. There were 7 participants at the library this past Thursday, meeting and praying for people who stop to talk. There is a book of prayer intentions being compiled with people’s prayer requests.
Fellowship	John Schuler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flowers are being planted on the grounds today. • The picnic update was given separately.
Finance	Donna Kopinski	Not present. Meeting scheduled Monday May 22.
HFRS	Cheryl Garneau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of year activities are taking place. • Christian Service is always emphasized: Mercy Bellbrook is one. Also, “Growing Green Gardens” for autistic individuals was supported by gathering donations • St. Mary’s has given HFRS a check for \$25,000 • The budget is being set for next year, and classroom needs are being finalized. There may be 3 or 4 kindergarten classes. There are waiting lists for at least three of the older grades.
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Susie Phillips/ Hugh Buchanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father Kean talked about the mentality of the “flash mob” in attending each others’ events, in support, and being a cohesive group of parishes. • Guest House has two fundraisers: 5K run and a golf outing in May and June. • The meeting was hosted at St. Paul Albanian, in their beautiful new library. • There will be discussion next month (June 6) about the role of the vicariate. Most of the discussion at meetings this year has been devoted to “roundtable” with parishes sharing their ongoing activities. There is a desire to look at the vicariate mission statement and discuss how the vicariate can serve the member parishes.
Seniors	Michaeleen Dolinski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next event is “Detroit Then and Now Land and Water” with viewing the river, lunch, etc. on June 13. There is also a group picnic planned where the men will do the cooking. • New officers have been elected: Pres/ chair: Bill Girardin VP : Paul Blanchard Secretary: Judy Watson Treasurer: Julie Tyska PC rep: Michaeleen Dolinski
Stewardship	Jim Armistead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent Newcomers luncheon will take place July 23. A representative from each commission is needed for 2 minutes – after the 11:00 mass. • Discussion was about updating the current pamphlet. • Skills inventory is going well. There are about 175 people registered. They are open to ideas on how to get more people registered. • Jim proposed having someone talk at an upcoming mass about promoting the online giving program.
Worship	Hugh Buchanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of the meeting was about the expanded hospitality ministry. • The recent confirmation mass was packed. About 900 people attended. Attendees were even seated in the empty choir seats. • This is a future evangelization activity – we could provide hospitality and parish information. There are a lot of outsiders to the parish here for these special days. Put this in the radar for next year: reaching out at the First Communion and Confirmation masses.

Youth	No rep today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The youth mass took place on April 22. There is excitement about making this a periodic thing, perhaps monthly. If it is a standing day - 1st Saturday every month, for instance - young people could invite their friends. The attendance this time was SMYG and some others. There was a small group who stayed for pizza and games. The suggestion was that there should be a reserved section at mass so that the youth could sit together. • The next youth mass will be after SAW.
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ROUNDTABLE

George reminded everyone to invite their commissions, and their new members, to the joint Commission/ Parish Council meeting in June. Sam suggested that we announce the meeting at the “Good News” and Hugh suggested that we state the promise that they can come and listen and not be given an assignment at this first meeting.

Meghan read a 5-star on-line rating received from a person who attended her niece’s First Communion at St. Mary’s this month. She said “this is what you would expect from a Catholic church”, that we exuded warmth, and if she lived in the area, she would definitely attend St. Mary’s. She was very impressed.

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
Jun. 17	Finance

SMOTH PROPOSED LEADESHIP FOR 2017-2018:

Group	Chairperson/Leader	Secretary	Core Members	Representative to Parish Council
Christian Service	Bill Hill	TBD.	Cheryl Bida (3 yr term) Karen Schenk (2 yr term) Betty Maciejewski (1 yr term)	Bill Hill Cheryl Bida, alternate
Education	Sam Guerra	Tom Wietchy	Core member will be discussed in June.	Sam Guerra
Evangelization	George Phillips	Susie Phillips	Mark Joyce Jay Fedewa Denise Kay	George Phillips
Fellowship	John Schuler	Loretta	John Schuler Denise Kay	John Schuler
Finance	Donna Kopinski	Unknown	Unknown	Donna Kopinski
HFRS	Cheryl Garneau	NA	Cheryl Garneau	Cheryl Garneau
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Susie Phillips Hugh Buchanan	NA	Susie Phillips Hugh Buchanan	Hugh Buchanan
Seniors	Pres./Chair: Bil Gerardin VP: Paul Blanchard Treasurer: Julie Tyszka	Judy Watson	Bill Gerardin	Michaeleen Dolinski Julie Tyszka, alternate
Stewardship	Carol Gunther	TBD	Carol Gunther	Jim Armistead Carol Gunther, alternate
Worship	Mary Pat Soisson	TBD	Beth Belesky Mary Pat Soisson.	If Hugh Buchanan moves to PAV rep, a new Worship Commission rep is needed for next year.
Youth	TBD. Sam will contact Matt and SMYG to get a rep for next year.	NA	NA	TBD