

St. Mary of the Hills Parish Pastoral Council

June 17, 2017

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

Present: Fr. Stan Ulman, George Phillips, Jay Fedewa, Beth Belesky, Mary Pat Soisson, Bill Hill, Cheryl Garneau, Sister Grace Kean, Carol Birch, Alex Dominique, Peggy Casing, Tom Wietchy, Matt Ongapin, Meghan Schuler, John Schuler, Carol Gunther, Susie Phillips

OPENING PRAYER (George Phillips)

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS (George Phillips)

George talked about the Archbishop's Pentecost homily, and his call to "be bold," to "act with urgency," and to "pray for faith." The Archbishop announced that "the church continues with us now," and quoted Ezekial 37 – how Jesus can enliven even "dry bones" and raise an army to re-establish the church. Our part is to have hope and be spirit-filled evangelizers. Then the Archbishop asked for our prayers for him. George said that the Archbishop is all in, and there for us.

Jay handed out copies of the Michigan Catholic with a summary of the synod results. Members are encouraged to read and pray about it. It will form the basis of many of our future discussions next year.

OLD BUSINESS

I. MINUTES. May meeting minutes were approved as written.

II. PARISH COUNCIL 'MEET AND GREET' AFTER MASSES

We will start the "Meet and Greet" back up in September. The last meeting was June 11. There was a lot of contact made after the 9:00 mass. We do bear fruit with these meetings. People have had an opportunity to ask questions of the parish council, and we gained several volunteers for the various commissions. There were eight new surveys received in June. Jay has been tabulating the survey comments. There is some increased understanding that the parishioners can be heard and involved.

III. TOP TWO STRATEGIC CONCERNS

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

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 Stan announced that the Archbishop has issued his pastoral letter, with the results of the Synod. The Synod helped the Archbishop in his planning, thinking, and direction. “Unleash the Gospel” is the brand that the AOD is applying to the archdiocese and its activities. Our role is not just keeping the buildings open and the bills paid, but being a missionary church where members go out. We need to be joyful so that others look at us and say “what is so attractive about them – what is the reason for their joy?” The pastoral plan has four parts, for Individuals, Families, Parishes, and the AOD Central Services. It includes many practical suggestions. One of the main areas of emphasis that the Archbishop chose is “the family,” as the domestic church. The Archbishop also calls on CYO and others to eliminate Sunday sports. Sunday should be a family day, for worship, meal, and time together.

Beth said that the hope is that this trickles down to everybody in the pews. Everyone should feel involved. Beth talked about the “culture of none’s”. The harvest is rich.

NEW BUSINESS

I. K of C LIQUOR LICENSE FOR OCTOBERFEST (Alex Dominique)

Alex introduced himself as the Grand Knight of the council here at St. Mary’s. There are a variety of programs that the Knights support that impact the parish. The SVDP (St. Vincent de Paul) activity is one of the beneficiaries of the Knight’ fundraising and support. Alex is here to request a liquor license for their upcoming fundraiser, “Octoberfest.”

It was motioned that St. Mary’s request a liquor license for the Knights of Columbus fundraiser on October 14. Eleven voting members were present and voted to approve the request for a liquor license. None were opposed.

Alex also announced that 27 volunteers had put up the Right to Life crosses on the front lawn this morning. The nightly rosary will held at 7:00 PM each evening through July 3 (except June 28). On Monday, the rosary will be held at 7:30 PM after mass.

II. INTERIM COMMISSION/COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2017

- (1.) It will be the work of each commission and committee** to work with the content of the synod results over the next parish council year.

(2.) **Two new members** are needed for each commission. Thanks to Meghan for keeping up the sign tracking the new members. The new members that have joined came to us from personal invitation, and we have heard no regrets. Thank you to our new members

(3.) **Hospitality at mass:** Beth talked about the goal of having the expanded greeter ministry, as we piloted at Easter, available at weekend masses. There will be a request for new members to this ministry.

III. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Sister Grace gave a handout explaining the program, with a request for volunteers. There are 4 other parishes - St. John Fisher, Christ the Redeemer, St. Irenaeus, and St. Joseph in Lake Orion - that have committed to this ministry. The sponsoring organization is Samaritas - the largest resettlement organization in the United States. In 2016, Samaritas settled over 1500 refugee families. They also coordinate with churches to support the families.

This would be a 6 month commitment. At the end of the 6 months, there is an evaluation. After the federal government's support, the remaining need for a family of 4 is about \$10,000, or, in our case, about \$2000 per parish. Several committees would be formed to address the family's needs in various areas. If we decide to do this, St. Mary's contribution would be in the Hospitality and Social portion. The committees will be staffed by using Sign-up Genius, so volunteers from participating parishes can contribute to any of the 5 areas.

The steering committee has talked about requesting a family size of 4 – 6, but there is not a plan to request a Christian family specifically. George pointed out the recent data about Mid-East Christians being martyred, and even feeling betrayed by American Christians for lack of support. Bill Hill also supported requesting a Christian family from the standpoint of being able to understand and assist them. The current plan is for a one-time request for parishioner financial support. The initial response seems to indicate that there is enough volunteer support.

Bill made a motion that the council support St. Mary's participation in the refugee resettlement. Meghan seconded it. Eleven members voted to approve this proposal; none were opposed. George thanked everyone for their support and said he is looking forward to learning more about the family.

IV. PARISH PICNIC

John Schuler reported that the picnic plans are moving along. There are groups being put together, such as a group to make and bag the cotton candy. There are volunteer opportunities available.

V. NIGHTFEVER AND REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Festival of the Hills booth, jointly with St. Paul Street Evangelization (from about 2 PM to the Fireworks):
Jay passed out a sign-up sheet for the booth. This is one of two opportunities to support – this is our biggest one-day evangelization effort at St. Mary's.

Nightfever in the church (After the Fireworks, about 10:30 – 12:00) – Three groups of volunteers are needed: on the sidewalk to invite passers-by into the church, at the doors to accompany the guests to the altar, and in the church interceding for the guests as they light a candle. Last year there were very moving testimonies from some of the 300 people who stopped in to light a candle and pray.

VI. 2016-2017 PARISH COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND “THANK YOU”

George talked about his excitement and gratitude as we wrap up this year. He thanked everyone for the work, and the crispness that everyone brought, and specifically thanked the volunteers for the support of each commission in leading a monthly chapel prayer, and compiling their deep dive and roadblocks so we can all learn, and understand and support each other. He thanked them for the support in attending the” Meet and Greet’s”, and in identifying the commission core members.

The capital expenditure that is now planned as a result of discussions from parish council over the last few years is the plan for the electronic sign on John R to invite and inform the public. George called everyone’s attention to the list of things that had been discussed and accomplished. George thanked Father Stan, the staff, and all of the volunteers for all that they do, and all that they make possible. It is very much appreciated.

COMMISSION HEADS INTRO/PC LEADERSHIP ELECTION:

2017-2018 Parish Council Election of Officers: A slate of proposed officers was put forth. It includes: **George Phillips as President, Jay Fedewa as Vice President, and Meghan Schuler as Secretary.**

George asked if there were any others interested in running for officers next year. There was discussion about eligibility for running for officer. The candidate must be a parish council member. There are two at-large members of Parish Council, and the others are identified by templated role, as from the commissions. There were no others asking to run for office. The motion to elect the proposed slate of officers was made and seconded and passed unanimously, eleven votes for and none opposed.

Commission leadership for 2017-18 is shown in the chart at the end of the minutes.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Christian Service	Bill Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CS had given their update for refugee resettlement. Bill asked for suggestions for new members.
Education	Sam Guerra	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tamara Warburton, teacher at Holy Family, may join us.• The future of Agape is being discussed and there is some funding for short-term needs, and discussion at the vicariate for gaining the support from individual parishes to continue funding the Agape ministry.
Evangelization	George Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• George talked about the upcoming Evangelization booth and Nightfever on June 28. Booth events will take the opportunity to talk to the public, and ask if they have anything on their heart that we can pray for.• Supporting worship in starting a prayer ministry after mass, to have prayer teams available to pray with those who want individual prayers.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All bills current. The AOD has approved the budget for next year. Next year the budget reporting will be on an accrual basis instead of a cash basis, so there will be a purchase order process, and as the commissions need to expend money, there will be an approval process prior to the spending. The budget includes an expense of \$16,000 for a fundraising company, and an expected revenue increase of \$16,000, which the fundraising company guarantees, or we don't pay them. Revenue is anticipated to increase by more than \$16,000.
HFRS	Cheryl Garnea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget for next year will be based on the enrollment of 825 students, down from 833 this year, based on a smaller incoming Kindergarten class. The end of year activities have taken place: closing mass and ceremony and 8th grade graduation, and step-up day for 3rd graders moving to the other campus as 4th graders
Pontiac Area Vicariate	Susie Phillips/ Hugh Buchanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agape's future and enthusiasm for next year is incorporating the synod results. There was discussion about new meeting structure – looking at rebuilding the Vicariate Council – possibly fewer full meetings per year, with supplemental committee meetings to support various activities.
Seniors	Michaeleen Dolinski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors did not have a meeting, but did go on their field trip to Detroit. Father Stan gave the update. There was a tour through some of the beautiful neighborhoods of old Detroit, and 3-hour boat tour on the Detroit River
Stewardship	Carol Gunther	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next Newcomers luncheon will take place July 23. Carol is asking for some volunteers to speak Carol announced that Stewardship will support the Fall fundraising campaign with a "Live, Learn, Serve" campaign, with the emphasis on "Serve"
Worship	Hugh Buchanan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer minister program is coming this summer with opportunity to sign up. There will be Communications through bulletin and Facebook. Nightfever and liturgical needs were discussed, including the mass at 9 PM and adoration Summer volunteer schedules are out and on track Beth: Prayer team concept – Beth will try to roll out at one mass in late July; then once/month Sister Grace asked if there could be a prayer team at SOS week for the guests
Youth	No rep today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt is proposing having a team of rotating representatives to get more youth involved, and also to help with scheduling conflicts. Sam Corrion is proposed as next year's voting member. Youth would like to continue into having more youth masses next year. George asked Sam to thank Matt for his service and to pass it on that Youth really matters, and it is great to have their participation

ROUNDTABLE

Beth announced that there are three “Awaken” events coming to St. Mary’s – dates in Bulletin etc.

Beth also made us aware of the “Unbound” conference that is being held at St. Anastasia July 29. Peggy clarified the purpose: it is for healing, getting rid of “the garbage,” and refreshing your spirit.

Father Stan announced that Vacation Bible School is starting this weeks, plus summer projects of replacing the carpeting in the sacristy, conference room and Laura’s office. There is also plan to move the RE office to the conference room. The staff is looking at different venues for where the conference room is going to go. Other planned maintenance may include installation of new HVAC system in the classroom corridor.

Donna announced that SOS week is Aug 13-20 this year.

Meghan asked us to turn in the Parish Council evaluation forms.

Jay noted that seven of the valedictorians from surrounding high schools had been attendees of Holy Family Regional School.

CLOSING PRAYER (Father Stan)

2017-18 SMOTH Parish Council Leadership:

President: George Phillips

Vice President: Jay Fedewa

Secretary: Meghan Schuler

Commission/Committee Leaders:

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	Sam Guerra, Cheryl Garneau, Susie Phillips	Sam Guerra
Evangelization	George Phillips	Susie Phillips	Mark Joyce Jay Fedewa Denise Kay	George Phillips
Fellowship	John Schuler	Loretta	John Schuler Denise Kay	Denise Kay
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: Bill Gerardin VP: Paul Blanchard Treasurer: Julie Tyszka	Judy Watson	Bill Gerardin	Michaeleen Dolinski Julie Tyszka, alternate
Stewardship	Jim Armistead	TBD	Carol Gunther	Jim Armistead Carol Gunther, alternate
Worship	Mary Pat Soisson	TBD	Beth Belesky Mary Pat Soisson. Hugh Buchanan	Beth Belesky
Youth	Sam Corrion	NA	NA	TBD