

Saint Mary Catholic Faith Community
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2017

Attendance – 6:30 pm

Present: Julie Behrman, Clem Budny, Matt Cool, Colleen Czajka, Tom Fredrickson, Eric Karakis, Fr. Brian Mason, Jim Podewils, Tim Reidy, Carol Stachowiak, and Gina Styer

Excused: Jim Maro, Fred Matestic, Suzie Ryder, and Jim Schubilske

Opening Prayer

Gina Styer led Scriptural reflection.

Review/Approval of 1/9/17 Pastoral Council Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved as written by those in attendance.

Jim Podewils: Finance Council Report on the Parish Budget

The Budget Report was approved on 3/13/17 by the Finance Committee. Overall, St. Mary's is projecting a 2.4% increase in income for this year.

The Offertory collection appears to be the 'weak link'. The budget realistically expects a decrease of 13% in this collection.

There will be a 2.5% overall increase in salaries per the approved budget.

Repairs to the upper parking lot will most likely occur after the 2017 Parish Festival but before the 2017–2018 school year commences.

2017–2018 Parish School enrollment is projected to be 403 students.

A tuition increase of 7.5% is slated for the 2017–2018 school year.

Over the next 4 years, St. Mary Parish School teacher's salaries will be raised to reach 80% of the Whitnall School District teacher salary scale.

The St. Mary Parish Community subsidizes the Parish School by approximately 40%.

Four teachers will be retiring from St. Mary Parish School at the end of this current school year.

The Parish has made great progress through its ongoing Debt Reduction Campaign. At the Campaign's onset, the total debt was \$2,747,941.00. The new debt total is \$1,267,900.00. The monthly mortgage payment is now \$13,000.00

Pastor's Report

ReBoot! Live was a success. According to Tom Fredrickson, Chairperson of the event, the presentation went smoothly and resulted in the gathering of 400 names of individuals for future Evangelization. As a result, Alpha, a program of inquiry concerning the Catholic faith, has been launched at the parish. Presently, approximately 80 people are attending the Thursday morning or evening sessions.

The search for a new Director of Liturgical Music continues. There were 15 applicants for the position when it first opened up. The pool has been pared down to 2, possibly 3 candidates. Interviews/Auditions are presently taking place.

The Parish Success Group Initiative has submitted its 60-Day Progress Report. Rich Curran and his staff have completed data collection pertinent to the parish study. A document published by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is being utilized as a foundational piece inherent to this process. The St. Mary Parish Staff has met its directives for this time period. The group has discerned present ministerial offerings, finding what is in place and identifying gap areas that need acute attention. The staff has begun praying together intentionally over emerging concerns as the process continues. "Coaching" - provided by Rich Curran- is already in progress for the staff, as it anticipates the new directions it will take as a result of the Parish Success Group Initiative results. The parish at large has been made aware of this Initiative through the Homiletics of Fr. Brian and the Reflections Report given by Rich Curran at all Masses the weekend of March 18-19, 2017. The Pastoral Staff meets again with Rich Curran on April 25th. More information will be shared with the parish community after that meeting takes place.

Upcoming Discernment of Pastoral Council Nominees

A timeline for selection of new members was shared by Fr. Brian. The process will begin the weekend of April 29-30, 2017, and end on June 12, 2017.

Present Pastoral Council members are being asked to talk up this service opportunity with other parishioners.

Thoughtfully consider fellow parishioners. Offer encouragement, support, and prayers to those who are discerning this type of ministry to the people of St. Mary's.

Current members whose terms are expiring are asked to think about nominating themselves if they wish to continue serving.

Tables for accepting nominations will need Council representatives at them to assist parishioners who desire more information or are willing to be nominated during the course of discernment.

Chairperson's Comments

It was noted that the present Pastoral Council pictures need an overhaul. New members have also been awaiting their name tags since their appointment in 2016.

Liason Reports

Social Concerns – Jim Maro

Julie read an email provided by Jim, who was unable to be present due to sickness. In it, Jim relayed he had attended the Social Concerns meeting held on March 27. The focus was on Lenten Outreach (very successful to this point), followed by event planning for the period of July 17, 2017 through June 18, 2018.

SLAW –Gina Styer

Gina reported she attended the February 18th meeting. There she heard that the Ministers of Hospitality are experiencing some issues with their own designated leadership at the 9 am liturgy. Dan O'Connor is looking for opportunities to have the Hospitality Ministry recognized for their efforts.

The Environment Committee reported through Ann Garrison that there were 44 parishioners who stepped forward to assist in various changes to the environment at St. Mary's. Among that total were 8 Confirmation candidates who were pivotal in addressing the necessary changes. Ann Garrison remains grateful for all the help.

There are 12 new Servers being trained, along with 10 new Cross-Bearers.

2 new Eucharistic ministers have been added to the ranks.

There was discussion concerning the possible establishment of a Parking Lot Ministry of Welcome.

More Hospitality is needed after all Masses.

Finance Council – Jim Podewils

Much thought, planning, and prayer was evident in the Budget work of the Finance Council. Every dollar is known and accounted for.

The Finance Council learned that the school is raising funds through Smile.Amazon.com. Fr. Brian interjected that the parish may be looking at that site for funding in the future as well. Presently, the school is the only parish group making use of it. (Julie B and Jim P are being urged to try out the site 😊.)

School Report – Tim Reidy

4 teachers will be retiring at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Those positions have already been filled.

Bulletin articles spotlighting St. Mary Parish School have been received quite favorably. It is believed the articles have made the school more VISIBLE to the parish at large.

Maria Schram, Principal of St. Mary School, would like to establish an Annual Appeal for the school. Fr. Brian believes it is an issue in need of further discussion.

The Open House held by the school was very successful.

Other Business

Julie Behrman and Carol Stachowiak will attend the Deanery Meeting on April 26.

Fr. Brian will miss the next Pastoral Council Meeting due to an Archdiocesan Meeting for Priests.

It was decided that the Unapproved Minutes from the Pastoral Council Meetings will be sent out earlier for the benefit of the members.

Closing

The meeting closed with The Prayer of St. Francis. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2017. Adjournment was at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen A. Czajka – Pastoral Council Secretary