

St. Martha Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2019

Members Present: Fr. Mike Murray, Don Morgan, Sr. Anita Parks, Andrea Patton, Jackie Rosalez, Jean Jorgensen, Annie Bennett, Tom O’Dea, Judi Smelser, Beth Buiocchi, Doug Hunter, Ron Lenz, Anne Readett.

Members Absent: Deacon Carl Boehlert, Deacon John Finn, Jim Collom, Ron Styka, and Al Kearney.

Meeting began at 7:00 pm with an Our Father. The group then read and reflected upon the upcoming weekend’s opening Gospel, Luke 19:28-40.

Old Business:

Clarification of Parish Spending Limits:

A clarification was offered, regarding the discussion at the January 2018 Parish Pastoral Council meeting. Concerning parish spending limits, it was explained that:

- " Extraordinary expenditures below \$10,000 can be authorized by the Pastor.
- " Extraordinary expenditures between \$10,000 and \$50,000 require approval from the Parish Finance Council (PFC).
- " Extraordinary expenditures above \$50,000 require PFC approval and Diocesan Finance Council approval. (A lower limit is in place for some parishes with smaller annual Sunday collections.)

Goals/Mission Statement and Potential Meeting Times:

The principal role of a parish pastoral council is to develop a vision of what the parish could be/should be in a few years, as well as to begin talking about how to get to that vision.

To begin the process of outlining parish goals and a new mission statement with the PPC, Fr. Mike will be meeting with a Grand Rapids Dominican sister who comes highly recommended by two PPC members. out of Grand Rapid (Sr. Carmelita) or there is a facilitator from the Diocese of Lansing.

On a hold-the-date basis, the PPC has reserved Saturday, September 21 (a Saturday without an MSU home game) for a planning exercise.

The PPC discussed the importance of broad parish participation in development of a vision and a mission statement, as well as broad parish consultation when initial drafts are proposed. The discussion touched on committee membership, ongoing communication to and from the parish at large, and the possible use of survey instrument.

Communications Team Update:

The newly formed Parish Communications Team has begun by gathering information on the means of communication now being used by various parish departments, groups, and ministries. Looking forward, there are important questions regarding the wise and effective use of e-mail; the purpose, format, and content of the bulletin; the possibility of a concise mid-week e-bulletin; the maintenance of good data regarding parishioners' contact information; the importance of effective and consistent branding; and the vital nature of an overall strategy. Still, as several noted, the most effective tool for advancing participation in the parish is one-one-one contact, with a personal invitation. The parish app has great potential – even more than when initially introduced – and it should be re-introduced and well used.

New Business:

Staff Update:

Andrea Patton, who has done an excellent job as acting principal, emerged from the interview process as the strongest principal. Effective immediately, she is principal of Saint Martha School.

A number of applications have been received for the music ministry position. Interviews will take place in late April.

New Membership:

Jim Collom's term expires at the end of June, and Annie Bennett is moving to Dayton. So the PPC will need two at-large members (one will be filling the unexpired portion of Annie's term). The PPC will ask in the bulletin for prospective candidates, PPC members should invite interested persons to apply. Like Matthias (the thirteenth Apostle), selection will be by lot.

The PPC discussed whether other parish groups should be represented at PPC. Youth / Young Adult ministry? Music?

School tuition:

The Finance Council has approved a significant tuition cut. The plan is to increase enrollment, continue the current gradual rise in Sunday Offertory, work on development, and significantly improve the financial performance of the Auction. An essential aspect of the plan is to promote understanding that the education and formation of the next generation of Catholics is the work of all parishioners. Thus the parish will be looking to enhance not just the school, but also provide strong support for religious education, for home-schooling families, for youth group activities, and for programming aimed at young adults, young professionals, and young marrieds. It is vitally important to the long-term health of the parish that we continually renew ourselves with young families.

The Auction – hitherto seen as a school event – will be expanded so that it supports the education and formation of all the young people in the parish. Obviously, that means the

school to a great extent, but also programming for young people not attending the school. Both in attendance and in leadership, the Auction needs to transition to being an all-parish event.

Discussion of Divine Renovation (pgs 136-164):

The discussion focused on the importance of belonging, of relationships. And that always begins with a name. The PPC discussed the possible occasional use of name tags at church (and the importance of name tags at all other parish events). During the welcome, it is vital get a name, and then use it a couple times during and after Mass.

The pre-Mass welcome will be varied somewhat, will put increased emphasis on personal welcoming, and will be available in the sacristy for review before Mass.

The highly effective Alpha program was discussed. In light of the frequent offering of Alpha at Saint Mary–Williamston and the labor-intensive nature of the program, it was decided, at least for the present, to let Saint Mary take the lead on Alpha.

Father Mike, Jackie, and Andrea will make an effort to reach out to new parishioners when they register.

Meeting closed with a Glory Be, and members adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Before the meeting, each Council member received the following ministry reports to review: Faith Formation, Youth and Young Adult, St. Martha School, Council of Catholic Women, and Evangelization Committee.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Annie Bennett, PPC Secretary.