

## **St. Martha Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes October 4, 2018**

**Members Present:** Fr. Mike Murray, Monica Dowell, Deacon John Finn, Don Morgan, Sr. Anita Parks, Jim Collom (Chair), Jean Jorgenson (Vice Chair), Annie Bennett (Secretary), Judi Smelser, Ron Styka, Beth Buiocchi (Council of Catholic Women), Doug Hunter (Knights of Columbus), Ron Lenz (Finance), Dan Shimkos (St. Vincent de Paul Society).

**Members Absent:** Deacon Carl Boehlert, Jackie Rosalez, Anne Readett (Evangelization).

**Meeting began** at 7:00 pm with a reading and reflection of the Gospel for 10/7/18: Mark 10: 2-16 (27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time).

### **Old Business:**

#### Charter Parish Pastoral Council:

- a. Jim Collom provided members with template PPC charter guidelines (adapted from the Diocese of Gaylord's "Parish Pastoral/Finance Council Guidelines"), in response to a question from last meeting about if the St. Martha PPC had/needed a charter. Jim offered to take the template and adapt it for use at St. Martha. He will send a draft version around via email and ask for corrections. Discussion on the draft will be added to the December 6 meeting agenda.

### **New Business:**

#### Music Minister:

- a. To have a new music minister by the summer, the post would need to go up no later than December, followed by interviews in the winter, and a decision in spring. We want beautiful music at all Masses, but each its own. What types of music should we have?
  - o For example, it might make sense if some of the Sunday 5 pm music (songs/types of music) leads into the youth program after.
- b. Several PPC members expressed a desire for a young adult choir. It is important to invite the younger generation in and foster their talents, especially since we have so many talented youth!
- c. At other parishes and at St. Martha- it seems that having cantors up front helps engage people more than singing solely from the choir loft (especially for the responsorial psalm).
  - o Also true when Mitchell Owens (music director) has taught the Gloria before Mass.
  - o Parishioners don't seem to participate much in singing- we need to find ways to engage.
- d. What would the job description look like?
  - o The person would need to be engaging and good with children.
  - o It could have a liturgical component or an evangelization/communications component to be a 40-hour position (including salary and benefits). This might be able to help attract a person who can stay longer, and thus, be able to foster greater relationships.
  - o Can we be financially competitive? We think so.

#### Stewardship:

- a. If the Church is where Jesus and happiness are found (and it is), our priority must be sharing the Gospel, serving others, and promoting work that allows others to come to know Him.
- b. Stewardship: acknowledge the blessings that God gives each of us, remember where those blessings came from, and consider how they can be shared back to further the ministry of Jesus

in the whole parish/community. Going forward, efforts on stewardship will focus more on this idea than raising money for a particular physical building/project.

- c. In the past, there has been some discussion of tithing: 1 hour of a 40-hour work week.
- d. A question to keep in mind: when we talking about the importance of giving, how can we show and tell the human stories of what we do with that gift?
- e. Divine Renovation: idea of doing stewardship efforts in shifts: time (commitment to spiritual growth/discipleship), then talent (serving others), and then treasure (financial giving).
- f. The annual report promised in April at the town hall is complete. That report goes through the previous fiscal year and will be included in bulletins in the coming weeks (likely October).

#### Donuts:

- a. Staff were able to get enough supervisors/teams for a schedule:
  - **Donuts on** October 7, 14, 21; November 4, 11, 18; December 2, 9, 16; January 6, 20, 27; February 3, 10, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24; April 7, 14, 28; and May 5.
  - **No donuts on** October 14, November 25, December 23, December 30, January 13, February 17, March 31, or April 21.
- b. Fr. Mike indicated that one day, he would like to explore serving breakfasts, as not everyone likes donuts and it would be great to get more parishioners joining downstairs after Mass.

#### Parish Room Names:

- a. Fr. Mike went over the list of names that he had previously proposed to the Council via email.
  - *Parish Hall*: Mother Ann Seton Hall.
  - *New Conference Room (Addition)*: Blessed Solanus Casey Conference Room.
  - *Conference Room in the Parish Office/Old Library*: St. Theresa Benedicta (Edith Stein) Room. The future sign would likely include both names.
  - *Gym*: Blessed Chiara Badano Gym.
  - *Media Room (Downstairs, Addition)*: Blessed Miguel Pro Media Center. (Bl. Miguel's last words, "Vivo Cristo Rey!" could be put up somewhere in the room).
  - *Bride's Room*: St. Kateri Tekakwitha.
- b. Are there ways we can incorporate the lesser known saints/blessed into our parish curriculum, both with the school, the faith formation program, and other parish events?
- c. Question on Bride's Room: should it instead be named after a pair of married saints, such as Saints Louis and Zelig Martin (St. Therese's parents), instead of St. Kateri, who was never married? And if so, is there somewhere else we can name after St. Kateri?
- d. The Parish Pastoral Council unanimously approved Mother Seton Hall, Blessed Solanus Casey Conference Room, St. Teresa Benedicta Conference Room, Blessed Chiara Badano gym.
- e. Fr. Mike will come back with some revised ideas for St. Kateri and the Bride's Room.

#### Post Diocesan Assembly:

- a. What can we do for our parishes to become places of missionary disciples? We first need to be open in our prayers to where the Holy Spirit might guide us as a parish.

- Bishop Boyea wants parishes to have quarterly prayer sessions, more confession, and more adoration (St. Martha now has 6 days of confession and weekly adoration).
- b. St. Martha can provide links to the assembly talks and other content on social media.
- c. Question: a number of small parishes had a large/loud presence at the event. Where was St. Martha? How do we get bolder/louder, and how do we present these events in a way that gets people invested? How do we transform people from going through the motions to responding?
  - For those who did come, St. Martha parishioners were REALLY engaged- bus guides, ushers, etc. Again, however, it was a struggle to get more parishioners to attend.
  - Some challenges: it was hard to describe ahead of time what the day would be like, we didn't all sit together and so it was hard to gauge how many were there from St. Martha.

#### Fall Service Project:

- a. Coming up, the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) partners with the parish to do the Thanksgiving food baskets. It's a great project, especially to engage kids with the idea of service. During this effort, we cannot just see the number of baskets. We also need to make an effort to see and to hear the stories of individuals helped by the project.
- b. Some places cook and serve Thanksgiving meals, and some parishes even have runners that take hot meals to people. This might be a project to think about for 2019. We would have the meal earlier in the day so that people can clean up in the early afternoon and then go enjoy some time with their own families. Is this something we may want to be known for?

#### Inclusiveness:

- a. Inclusiveness is a subcategory of welcoming. We should very visibly be a parish that welcomes anyone (audio devices, sidewalk cuts, sanctuary ramp, power door on the north side, etc).
- b. Where the confessional is located can be far for those with walkers. Parish staff have begun thinking about if there is an option that is on higher ground and more easily accessible.
- c. Fr. Mike invited Council members to have their eyes, ears, and heart open to what changes we could make as a parish to be more inclusive, especially what can we do in the building. Members should bring ideas to the next meeting on December 6.

#### New PPC Member:

- a. One of our at-large members, Dr. David Flint, submitted a letter of resignation between last meeting and this meeting. We now have a vacancy on the Parish Pastoral Council.
  - Draw names before December meeting.
  - We can ask those who have previously entered their names to resubmit their names to Jim Collom, and Council members can recommend individuals (with their permission).
  - Jim will also put a bulletin announcement together.
- b. Note: we may want to consider asking a new parishioner to join (less than 5 years in the parish) for a fresh perspective, as so many current members have been parishioners a long time.

#### Pattern/Trends Sheet:

- a. The core work of a PPC: who are we (as a parish)? Who ought we be? How do we get there?
- b. Each PPC member received a worksheet that the Diocese of Lansing presented at its recent priest convocation. The sheet included a column of patterns/trends in society today that impact the Church and its work (i.e. consumerism, breakup of the family, etc). It also included blank

columns titled “Where it (the trend) is headed?” and “Implications for Us.” All members were encouraged to give the sheet some thought in relation to St. Martha Parish and our work.

Upcoming Events:

- a. Diocese of Lansing Women’s Conference: Saturday, November 3. Spread the word!
- b. The Diocesan Clergy Appreciation Meal: Thursday, October 11 at St. Martha. The Knights of Columbus will likely need help (setting up, serving, and cleaning up). Contact Doug Hunter.

**Closing prayer** was a Hail Mary at 8:50 pm.

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