

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 11, 2016

Room 167

Members: Fr. Dan, Fr. Maciej, Sandy Beris, Scott Rolston, Mike Huck, Kurt Lange, Dennis Kiraly, Joe DiGiovanni, Barbara Garavalia, Al Martin, Luanne Roth, Liz Russell, Neil Wisker

Members Absent: Scott Rolston, Bill Gallagher, Aaron Nosek, Dennis Kiraly, Fr. Maciej, Mike Huck, Joe DiGiovanni, Barbara Garavalia

Guests: Jim Burns (from the finance committee)

Meeting Began: 7:06 PM

Opening Prayer: Liz Russell

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December were approved by email with multiple corrections.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda for January was approved.

Commission Reports:

Adult Faith

- 29 parishioners from the Emmaus Senior's Group visited Drury Lane in Oak Brook on December for lunch and the play White Christmas. Very good feedback from the group, all had a great time!
- Fr Dan spoke at our Faith Breakfast on Sat. Jan 9. He spoke on contemplative prayer focusing on St Teresa of Avila. Per usual as scrumptious breakfast was prepared and served.
- The commission is hosting a Movie Night on Fri. Jan 15, showing Do You Believe? Produced by the same company that made God's Not Dead. We had a good turnout for that film, so we are hoping for the same.
- We are promoting the Diocese's current program Catholic Man Night. The next evening of prayer, fellowship and lecture is at St Raymond's in Joliet with Bishop Conlon. St Raphael will be sponsoring a night in September.
- Preparations for the upcoming Woman's CRHP Renewal are in full swing. The weekend is March 5 and 6, recruitment is the focus right now.
- The men's CRHP team is formed and beginning to meet, their weekend is April 23 and 24

Finance

- Although revenue collections from Christmas were generous.
- The budgeting/calendar process begins as soon as Marian receives pertinent info from the diocese.

Liturgical Life

- EM report from coordinator Ron Goodin. 250 total EMs but 72 are sub only. Approx. 20 are under age 30. In 2015 we trained 19 new EMs (2 were under age 30). MSP scheduler seems to help and has reduced the number of no shows. It is still a challenge to fill all our needs especially at Christmas and

Easter. It was recommended that we encourage EM to process in from the Narthex as a group. The next training is Jan. 23

- We received many complaints about the decor at Christmas. Suggestion to have Advent environment look a little different than Lent. Perhaps other purple colors and more flowers.
- Parish Mission Feb. 21-23. John Michael Talbot will make an announcement at the 5:00 & 10:45 Masses that weekend. The Sunday session begins at 5 pm, Mon. & Tue. at 7 pm. Jr. High & HS RE have been invited to the Sunday session. Pizza for all will follow. Robert will ask for 12 volunteers each night to greet and staff tables. All Commissions are asked to provide some representation.
- 40 Hours Devotion will be Apr. 17-19. Exact schedule TBD.
- Finished discussion of *Rebuilt*. Some take aways were: 1) Their choice to be "all in" on Sundays and holy days. They apply all their resources and best efforts towards reaching as many regular parishioners and "on the fence" people as possible. 2) Constantly encouraging and affirming their parishioners and ministers and encouraging people to live their faith and become better disciples rather than get caught up in a consumer approach to faith 3) We felt that the book affirmed many things we are doing but there are other things we could consider doing or revisit.
- Our next reading material will be Ch. 11 on liturgy from John Michael Talbot's book, *Nothing is Impossible with God*, starting with Chapter 11: *Liturgy*, dealing with the basics of what does liturgy mean? And continues through Chapter 16: *Soul*.

School Board

No Report

Service Ministry & Pastoral Care

- **Workshop – Hope in Action: Responding to the Message of Pope Francis** – January 16, 2016, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. (MLK Weekend). This workshop will focus on responding to the encyclical *Laudato Si – Care for our Common Home*. John Grossman will provide the opening reflection, incorporating his homeless character, "Ray." This will be followed by a choice of breakout sessions: 1) rotating discussion tables, 2) taking action locally, 3) Lectio Divino prayer response, and 4) a children's activity using the book, *The Water Hole*, by Graeme Base. Participants will join in prayer and have an opportunity to write a letter to Congress on an environmental issue and to sign up to participate in future work.
- **Increasing Participation in Social Justice** – The U.S. Bishops encourage social justice activities that focus on creating fairness, addressing root causes of social problems, and advocacy on public policy. Pope Francis has asked us to be a voice of the poor. The Offering of Letters is an example. Likewise, attendees at Hope in Action will be able to support the bishop's stance on the Green Action Fund. The SMPC is exploring additional ways to increase activities, perhaps establishing a group of interested individuals, similar to the old Faith in Action group.
- **Christmas Sharing** - Adopt-a-Family: parishioners supported 158 families. Giving Tree – parishioners provided gifts for individuals using the ornaments on the Giving Tree (breakdown below). Special Appeal is supporting Watts of Love, which will provide solar-powered lights for a colony of lepers in Nepal. A portion of the donations go to the U.S. Bishop's Campaign for Human Development. So far, \$24,671 have been collected.
 - Ecumenical Adult Daycare - 38 recipient families
 - Teen/parent – 113 served last year
 - Martin Avenue Apartments – 136 recipients (93 women, 33 men)

- **Samaritan Ministry** – the group is finalizing its determination of which charities to support with the donations from the parish tithe.
- **Community-wide Ministers of Care Meeting** - 1/25/16 - St. Raphael's had developed a meeting for all ministers of care who serve Edward Hospital. The hospital priest chaplain will participate, and attendees will review procedures and share information and stories.
- **Pastoral Care Ministry** - three additional volunteers have been trained and three more are being trained. Father Maciej now celebrates Mass at Martin Manor monthly.
- **Stephen Ministry** - Four women and four men are active ministers. Two additional women are in training – to be completed at the end of February. Current leadership of this group is comprised of Liz Russell and Deacon Chuck Woods
- **Bereavement Group** - will conduct another six week session starting in April

Staff

- The staff has been asked to begin the calendar and budgeting process for the next fiscal year.

Youth Faith Formation

- **Year of Mercy** – integrated activities for grade 1- RPM discussed. Members are looking into nearby nursing homes and juvenile detention centers to see if they are open to receiving personal care packages, how many they'd require, and what products they would allow. The 1-5th graders would decorate bags and pack them with these items at the church event on Feb 7 & 9. The students in grades 6-12 would be responsible for transporting those packages to the recipient locations sometime before Easter.
- **Sub-groups within the commission** – in order to meet the various needs for the YFF department, discussion ensued about asking commission members to take on roles like hospitality coordinator, pastoral outreach coordinator, and service project developer. Further discussion and definition of these roles will continue to develop.
- **Volunteers needed** – the YFF office is looking for help Monday – Friday starting at 10am. Contact Michelle Sadler or Renee Cwik if able
- 1/20-1/24 – **March for Life**. Attended by 8 teens in Washington DC
- **A Christian comedian** – Chris Pagent will be performing at St. Margaret Mary and St. Thomas the Apostle on Jan 24th. All high schoolers and their families are invited.
- **Winter Jam** – Jan 29 at the Allstate Arena. 8-10 Christian bands will perform. Special backstage/all-access passes are available. All high school students are invited.
- **Freshman retreat** 2/12-2/14

Pastor's Report

- The parish had a good Advent/Christmas celebration.
- Per a letter from Bishop Conlon, there will be no more Christmas Eve masses prior to 4pm. A possible schedule would have masses at 4, 4:30 (gym), 6, 7:30, and 10:30. St. Raphael was one of only 16 parishes to have mass prior to 4pm this year.
- Catholic Schools Week is coming. Bishop Conlon will be celebrating one mass at the parish during that week.
- Our new seminarian, Mike McMahon, will be moving into the rectory on February 6th.
- Seminarian Mark (who was with us last winter/spring) may be assigned to the parish for his deaconate.
- John Michael Talbot will be here for the parish mission.
- The campus analysis by Healy-Bender is almost complete. Their findings and suggestions will be compiled into a book that will be available to PPC members and other parishioners.
- The new website should be up and running by the end of January.

New Business:

Old Business:

1. By-Laws revision for Admin and Finance in process. Essentially, the plan is to remove Admin as a commission and have Finance take its place. *New materials will be sent to Fr. Dan. Pending his approval, they will be forwarded to the entire PPC and up for a vote at the February meeting.*
2. Sound surveys are available at the Welcome Desk. Complete one during Mass and return it to the same location.
3. Year of Mercy sign up went around. PPC members are encouraged to invite parishioners who regularly participate in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
4. The group discussed chapter 2 in The Holy Year of Mercy.

Closing Prayer: Deacon Kurt

Meeting Ended: 8:15PM

Next PPC Meeting: February 8th, at 7 PM in room 167

Opening Prayer: Al Martin