

A Catholic Community...Our Lady Queen of Peace/St. Thomas More
Pastoral Council – Approved Minutes
January 13, 2020

Members of Council Present: Peggy Clark, Tanya Clark, David Dean, Margot Lutz, Jack McIntyre, Amanda Schiralli, Isaiah Tolbert

Members of Council Absent: Lesly Jean-Louis, William Shelly,

Ex Officio Present: Father Hart, Margaret Ostromecki, Dick DellaPorta, Mary Fromm (secretary)

Ex Officio Absent: Gerry Strauss

1. Father Hart welcomed the council and Tanya Clark said the opening prayer.
2. The Meeting Agenda was moved to be accepted by David Dean and 2nd by Margo Lutz.
3. The November 19th Meeting Minutes were moved to be accepted by David Dean and 2nd by Dick DellaPorta.
4. For Discussion:
 - Wine and Cheese is being planned for Saturday, February 8th, following the 4:30 mass at each worship site. These events are hosted by the Pastoral Council, and have been successful and well attended in the past. Looking for pastoral council volunteers to encourage people to attend the event at the masses next weekend. STM: Bill Shelly and Tanya Clark. OLQP: Isaiah, Peggy, and Mary.
 - Diocesan Data Sheet:
 - OLQP: In past years, attendance has been above the diocesan average, but in 2019 was at the average. Offertory has been above the diocesan average, with a decline from 2018 to 2019. The parish Balance Sheet was rated Excellent, with the Income/Expense Statement rated Fair.
 - STM: Attendance is below the diocesan average, with the offertory above, also with a decline from 2018 to 2019. The parish Balance Sheet was rated Fair, with the Income/Expense Statement being Poor.
 - Weddings are declining at both parishes, especially at STM, and there have been fewer funerals as well. This reflects the trend of millennials, who are not as connected to church as prior generations. Fr. Hart and Margaret are thinking about setting aside some mass times once a week for memorials for parishioners.
 - Removal of Pews at STM and OLQP: Both worship sites are considering removing some pews to make additional space. At OLQP a pew will be removed near the organ, to make room for the choir. At STM pews will be removed to move the baptismal font to the entry to the church (in line with the symbolism that we enter the church through baptism). There have also been some requests to use the extra space at STM for coffee hours.
 - Chair Purchases: Some chair purchases may be required at both worship sites, since there are some events where there is standing room only. Peggy Clark asked whether chair rental could be an option for events with large attendance.
 - Handicap Accessible Bathroom at STM: A concept to add a handicap accessible bathroom was discussed a few years ago, but was put on hold by the finance council, pending future attendance. At a recent large funeral (Bob Bradley) several attendees requested this, and one of the council members also experienced the inconvenience of not having one. This project will be revisited, and will be pending the fundraising for this and the window project at STM.
 - Expanded Parking Lot at STM: There is another pending project at STM to expand the parking lot - there are a few events (Christmas, Easter, and big funerals) where additional parking would be beneficial, but the finance council doesn't feel this periodic need warrants the investment required.
 - Pastoral Planning: Pastoral Planning for the Brighton parishes will begin later in 2020. The planning team will include members of the Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils of each worship site, as well as a representative from Seton and Siena schools. Some pre-planning is underway at this time, to identify areas of new synergies between the Brighton parishes, for example the consolidation of Faith Formation programs.
 - Date for Evening Discussion on Sexual Abuse: A Tuesday evening, coinciding with the Faith Formation program is recommended, as well as a Sunday afternoon session, targeting the first week in February. The likely schedule will be Tuesday evening the 4th of February, and Sunday afternoon on February 9th. Fr. Hart and Jack MacIntyre will be the speakers.
5. Updates/Evaluations
 - Advent: The Caroling at the Jewish Home was really well attended and a great event.

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- *Christmas*: There were few children participating in the Christmas pageant, and Fr. Hart will work hard to get more participation next year. There may have been a conflict with the preparation for the Cherub choir. More parent direct communication could be helpful. There was a good turnout of middle school students who helped to prepare OLQP for the Christmas masses. The new crèche at OLQP, which was donated in honor of a parishioner's 90th birthday, was very beautiful.
 - *Gathering of Lectors and Ministers of Communion*: The sessions were wonderful. Mary Ann Obark organized the events, and led all in prayer. The procedures for these ministries were also reviewed.
 - *Faith Formation Christmas Gathering*: was held at OLQP. Jennifer Abdulla did a really great job setting it up. It was a wonderful evening for all – Meghan played Christmas Carols, and fun games were available for the children. The kids really enjoyed it when Fr. Hart spoke to them.
 - *Messiah and Future Organ Recital Series*: Dick DellaPorta attended the Messiah concert, and found the music very professionally done. The pews were a bit uncomfortable. Attendance was good, but there weren't as many parishioners as families of musicians attending. A suggestion was made that a format with popular Christmas carols could be appreciated by parishioners next year. A series of 6 Organ Recitals have been set up monthly, starting the last week of January - all will be held at 4PM on Sundays.
 - *STM Lights*: There was a brief lighting issue at STM during the Messiah concert, which blessedly was quickly resolved. The lighting at STM needs to be updated - a donation has been received for repair of the system.
 - *CMA Status*: STM is at 69%, with 126 participants. OLQP is at 67%, with 134 participants. Both parishes are behind the pace of the appeal achieved in prior years.
6. Other: Any ideas to increase attendance? Maybe adding greeters from the congregation at each mass would be appreciated. The greeters at 11:45 have attracted people who really appreciate that personal touch and warmth.
 7. Closing Prayer - Tanya Clark
 8. The next meeting is planned for March 9, 2020 at Saint Thomas More.

Respectfully submitted - Mary Fromm