

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

May 1, 2018

The meeting started at 6:30pm.

Present: Father David Burgard, Donna Banker, Lorie Bronson, Fred Fedorowicz, Heather Hall, Lorie Holden, Roger Kidd (Chair), Richard Janssens, Doug Kuras, Maria Liparoto, Robert McMillan, Tina VanWashtenova, Anne Zochowski

Absent: Hugh Acosta, Gay Criscio, Bernie Smith (Vice-Chair)

Vision: To Welcome. To Inspire. To Transform. To Serve.

Mission Statement: St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, a Catholic community of faith, proclaims Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, celebration of the sacraments, ongoing care for those in need, lifelong faith formation and stewardship of our time, talents and treasures.

Opening Prayer: Lorie Bronson

PPC Member's Prayer Intention/Reflection

Approval of March minutes:

The minutes were approved by all present.

Vicariate or Archdiocesan Report:

Fred reported that we will be getting a new Vicar. Fred said that they hope the new vicar will begin on July 1, but one has not been named as of yet.

The vicariate is still working on the budget.

The vicar wants to undertake a fundraiser for the engagement center, which is a place of triage for those who are struggling with addiction to drugs or alcohol. This endeavor will be developed over the next year. He stated that there is a great deal of support behind this.

Father David spoke about the Gatekeepers group and bringing the representative to a meeting. He said that the priests were a part of a recent presentation, and shared a flyer which gave an overview of what Gatekeepers does.

Commission Reports

Finance Council

St. Mary's is over 2/3 of the way towards our CSA goals. All overage will go towards the organ maintenance fund.

The finance council has requested an extension of one additional month for their budget. The budget will then be presented at the June 12 PPC meeting.

For next years budget, the expected offertory will be reduced based on this past years offerings.

Julie Dull will be at the next PPC meeting.

There has been a substantial donation which will cover the complete cost of the new front doors. The donor also indicated that any overages in cost will also be covered through an additional donation. Many decisions still need to be made about the doors and installation.

Christian Service

Lorie Bronson reported that they are continuing to work on their objectives to their goals and are making good progress.

One of the objectives was to recruit and train Stephen ministry volunteers and they have almost completed this objective. Saturday, June 9th they will be commissioned at St. Mary's and will then be ready to work within the ministry.

Lorie reported on a newly established widow support group. The first meeting was successful for those who attended, with positive feedback. Lorie asked that if we know of anyone who is a widow, to please encourage them to attend as well. There has also been some interest in a support group for widowers and this is being looked into.

Lorie also shared that there is interest in the local bed race and having a team compete.

We will be walking in the Fair Parade, on Sunday, July 29th.

Christian women raised \$4,492 during the soup luncheon.

Maria reported on the organic garden and said that the initial meeting was an informative and planning meeting. People were provided space for their own row and produce. Maria reported that Anne Zochowski's husband stated that he is willing to donate any fresh produce that he can supply, needed for preparation of the meals.

Faith Formation

Father David reported that Mary Quick and the churches are looking at the effect of MCES on faith formation. St. Mary's is twice as large as the other two churches. With the number of catechists versus students and classrooms, they are looking at two sessions instead of three, a weekday and Sunday option. They are still in the process of figuring out what this will look like while still connecting people to their parishes and using appropriate and sensible facility space. This has been a topic of concern for a while and Father asked that we pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit. This is an ongoing development and is being treated with care and respect for all.

Stewardship

Tina reported on Stewardship. She said that they are working on their objectives.

The commission is working on is an Ice Cream Social during one of the music in the park evenings.

The commission also spoke about the prayer garden and would like to keep the idea open for future discussion.

The commission is working on the stained glass historical booklet and are in the process of getting equipment needed to access the high windows for photographing. They are still making decisions on the use/distribution of the booklets.

There have been discussions with the Hispanic Ministry to join the Stewardship ministry so that the groups can work together towards evangelization.

The welcome packets are complete and they are now trying to decide on the best way for distribution.

May 20, at 9:30 mass, there will be a welcoming celebration for new parishioners with coffee and donuts and Lorie asked that the council make an effort to be there.

Tina also commented on the remembrance board and the many positive comments on this.

Sunday, June 3, is the next pizza and movie night. The movie will be "Ferdinand." An animated feature addressing bullying.

The recoding Angel statue has been a continuing discussion with the council. They are looking into what the cost will be for this. Anne stated that she brought information regarding this. Doug stated that this was discussed years ago and the cost then was approximately \$25,000.

Anne gave a brief history of the statue and the meaning/representation behind it. The statue was made of a high quality marble, which breaks down over time. It was suggested that checking into a different type of material, one that can hold up to the elements and may cost less. There was also a discussion on seeking grant funding for the refurbishment as well. Anne stated that the statue is not property of St. Mary's but the Catholic Community as a whole, and it was said that it is on St. Mary's property and it is our responsibility. It was suggested that a subcommittee form to do further work on this project. Anne said that she would take this on.

Worship Commission

Worship commission report was covered within the Finance Commission report.

Old Business:

Evangelization: A meeting with Sue Cummins will be rescheduled. Roger would like to get this set as soon as possible. Roger asked if this should be addressed at the June meeting and it was agreed to set that up if possible.

Operational Procedures of the Parish Pastoral Council: Roger re-distributed Chapter 3. He did some research and combined what he learned from each sample he found, and then formed a compiled document from these samples. He asked that the council take this form home, go over it and input their additions/thoughts/changes. These samples all came from churches within the Detroit diocese. He formed this as a more complete sample of what the council is aiming towards.

Roger proposed that a week before the next meeting, everyone send their comments/suggestions to him, and then Roger will compile it. Roger will be out of town for the June meeting, but Bernie will present it. Roger also said that he will

include a pdf of a fourth parish sample.

A July meeting was discussed and it was agreed that we meet on July 10, which will be the first meeting for the new members.

New Business:

Parish recycling: Lorie Bronson asked if it might be a good idea for this parish to have a way to recycle glass and plastic. The stewardship commission is looking into the costs with the city and then look into other options and have the council give some input as well. Lorie also proposed that we look at reducing the amount of waste we generate here.

New PPC members: Father David proposed that we do this June 2 & 3, instead of Pentecost weekend. We will be replacing Richard, Bernie and Gay.

Foster Children and Parish Responsibility: Roger shared his family history and experiences with his foster children. He then shared an article titled, "The Ten Simple Ways Your Parish Can Help Foster Families," and discussed the many needs for families/children in this situation. He said that there are many religions helping and making a difference and would like to encourage the council to think about ways the Catholic Church can help and keep this as a point of concern for the future.

Comments/Questions

Anne asked what the numbers for the MCES were looking like and Father David said that it is looking like it will decline somewhat.

Maria asked that members attend the Nation Day of Prayer on May 3rd at the La-Z-Boy Center at MCCC.

Pastor comments:

Father David distributed an enrichment and encouraged us to use this as a reflection on Easter and the essential truths of our faith. He asked that we pray for the transition with our newly assigned priest as well as for the other newly assigned priests.

Father David thanked everyone for their kindness, prayers, and continued support as he progresses through his recovery.

Father asked that we pray for our young people preparing for the sacraments, and to remember to pray for their families as well.

The invitations have been sent to those graduating to attend an affirmation of support breakfast.

Next PPC Meeting- June 12, 2018 – Bernie will Chair

Closing Prayer- Father David

Respectfully submitted by: Donna Banker, Recording Secretary