

**Uptown Catholic Pastoral Council Meeting Notes**

March 12<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Attendance:**

Martha Dorff; Tom Donnelly, Margie Matthews, Joe Gubasta, Ray Faller, Ginny Gubasta, David Fiel, Marian McSwigan, Tom Herzog, Karissa Dunn, Fr. Jan Schmidt, Fr. Jeff Stevens, Presenting: David Fiel, Angelo DiMarzio, Cheryl Wood  
Visitors: Cindy Hardesty, Frazier Smith  
Prayer: Prayer to the Holy Spirit, said together

**Reports and Announcements**

**Catholic Bearcat Report: Karissa Dunn**

- Ash Wednesday was very successful; on Fat Tuesday Missionaries invited students on campus to attend
- There are now 50 Bible Study small groups
- Fr. Jeff will be leading a mission group to Belize during Spring Break
- Karissa and Fr. Jeff plan to speak to the students regarding tithing, particularly the seniors; hoping to get some donations to support the church
- The Bearcat Banquet will take place April 2, 6-9 at the Fairfield

**Uptown Catholic Facilities Report, Financial Report: Tom Herzog**

**Facilities**

**Holy Name**

- Tom worked with a contractor to service the boiler at Holy Name. At a cost of \$12,000 they were fixed it to run perhaps another year. The service person said it is past its useful life. Replacement cost is estimated at \$30,000.
- Half the roof was repaired at a cost of \$6,500. The other half needs repair.

**Annunciation**

- One incident where the temperature in the building dropped significantly. It was determined that the heating unit was turned off. Tom is looking into installing digital thermostats

**General**

- Tom is looking into preventative maintenance agreements for all areas.

**Financial**

- Ryan Lopez (Catholic Bearcat development) is working on a 4 year plan for fundraising with UC Seniors. He is hoping to raise \$25,000/year.
- Ryan is meeting with Archdiocesan representatives to request a greater subsidy for the Neumann Center. Fr. Jan commented that the best way to achieve a greater subsidy is to increase giving to CMA which can then trickle down to parishes.
- A question was raised regarding the use of Venmo for donations. Venmo is designed for individual users, not businesses. (or non profits?) Staff researching a business alternative.
- Tom passed out Statements of Financial Positions and Activities for all three churches: Annunciation (as of November 2024), Holy Name (as of January, 2025 sans most recent expenses) & SMSG (as of November, 2024)
- A question was raised regarding the use of the Klug Center and other Uptown Catholic spaces. Tom responded that the renter must purchase insurance (\$100) and sign the appropriate document. The usual donation is \$35/hour in the Catholic Center and would be the same in the Klug Center.

**Updates: Fr. Jan**

- There have been a few nominations for a new Pastor for Uptown Catholic. We may know who it will be by Easter. However, installation will not take place until July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Most Reverend Robert G. Casey, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago has been appointed as the 11<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Cincinnati. Installation will take Place at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains on Thursday, April 3 at 2:00pm followed by a closed reception in the Hall of Mirrors. Two individuals from each parish are invited to attend. Martha will contact members of the Pastoral Council first to see who is interested and able to attend.

**New Business**

**Holy Name Reports: Cheryl Wood, David Fiel, Angelo Di Marzio**

- Representatives provided two documents: Holy Name is Special & Attendance Status. (Attached) Members spoke about the information in the documents.
- David announced that Cheryl and his daughter will be performing in the upcoming Classical Roots concert at Music Hall on March 15.
- David reported that the basement of the church now appears to be dry.
- Cheryl gave a heartfelt account of her long involvement in Holy Name Church emphasizing that she has always felt at home there. Both the congregation (50-60 people), culture and the intimate setting of the church are very important to her and the other members. It is a culture that she strongly feels should be preserved. She has been a member of the uplifting music and the choir for many years.
- Angelo reported that the church has survived for many years on financial assets of \$35-40,000 and feels that it is able to continue as such. According to Tom's report, Holy Name church has \$37,000 prior to the recent repair bills. Right-to-Life has assisted them financially when needed. For example, they recently donated \$7,000 to help with the \$12,000 bill to repair the boiler. They feel they have been reasonable stewards of their finances. They plan to have a mini-capital campaign to raise funds.
- In the past, members of their church have donated time and talent to fix problems that arose. Since becoming part of the region, contractors are paid to do those tasks. Maintenance has not been as good. People don't seem to step forward as readily since they think someone else is being paid to take care of it.
- Angelo stated that boiler issue appeared a while ago and was reported but never addressed.
- Angelo feels they are holding their own on attendance and experiencing a small uptick. There is now a growing immigrant population and more students. Mt. Auburn housing boom: student housing and apartments. The region appears to be growing.
- A number of homeless walk to church.
- They have merged their Food Bank with the St. George Food Bank and regularly support it.
- They are reaching out to the community for ideas and plans for the future. They wish to train Eucharistic and Lectors for worship ministry and to reach out to Corryville Catholic school. They would like greater Holy Day participation and plan to bring back the monthly pot luck, start Bible Study groups and have a BBQ fundraiser. They would like more information in the Newsletter and Bulletin than just an occasional one line. They wish to reach out to the local neighborhood to evangelize and be a good neighbor to them.
- In short, they feel they have a wonderful church with many reason to continue as such.

### **Holy Name Discussion**

- Question: Could Holy Name parishioners see themselves as being part of SMSG?

Comments:

- Like the spice in chili, Holy Name is the spice that flavors the Uptown region.
- Because of its size SMSG does not have the feeling of intimacy Holy Name has.
- No saints of color pictured in SMSG.
- They feel excluded
  - Conversation about what to do about this. Solid effort to welcome and include is needed.
  - Solid effort to genuinely understand what HN offers and find a way to make this thrive even more as part of SMSG
  - It must be a two-way street
- Where would the homeless people go?
- Holy Name parishioners were invited to attend the upcoming CRHP retreat which might help them feel more welcome in the family of parishes. The women's group of about 60 individuals is diverse in age and culture. There have already been three women from Holy Name attending.
- A new pro-life organization has opened across the street from the abortion place. They have requested that a chapel be built in their facility. Father Jan says it is a Catholic facility.
- The reality is that we don't have enough priests; for the foreseeable future this region will have (hopefully) two priests when, in truth, they need more than that.
- Holy Name feels that they can find their own priests to say Mass. Fr. Jan indicated that they are welcome to try.

### **Follow Up Items and Ongoing Matters**

Moving Forward with Annunciation/Romero Partnership

No progress at this time. Must wait for the new pastor.

Discipleship Evenings

Will take place 6:30-8:30pm on the following dates:

April 4 (SMSG Basement) Way of the Disciple + How to Pray

April 25 (Annunciation Klug Center) Tools for Evangelization

May 16 (Holy Name Church) Praise and Worship Night

Estimating 50 people in attendance. Currently have 4 CRHP people willing to bring snacks.

Romero Missionaries volunteering to work with children while adults attend.

Anthony Cirillo will present the first talk on discipleship. Ashley Dunn will present Tools for Evangelization.

Pastoral Council structure moving forward

Not addressed at this time.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Jan

Next Meeting: We will likely not meet until May. Martha will confirm.