

St. Mark Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes
April 26, 2016

Meeting Time: 7pm
Location: The Cenacle
Dorothy

Prayer Leader: Bill
Refreshments:

Scripture/Shared Prayer

Bill

Roll Call (Dorothy) – Present: Father Todd, Deacon Tom, Dorothy Glass, Donna Kern, Lee Ann Briggeman, Carolyn Bundy, Kathy Pierce, Bill Sherman, Don Toll, Tim Runholt, Marty Meyer, Mary Horty & Tim Horty.

Ministry Presentation – Marriage Preparation – Mary & Tim Horty presented on the ministry. They are one of seven couples doing this important ministry. Four of the sponsor couples have been doing this for a while with three new sponsor couples with the high numbers of couples preparing for marriage through St. Mark. The couples meet with Father or Deacon Tom who assigns them to one of the preparation couples. The preparation includes taking a survey called FOCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study), a weekend retreat, meeting with the sponsor couple and counseling with Father or Deacon. The results of FOCUS are provided to the sponsor couple for discussion with the engaged couple to encourage discussions on issues which are part of married life prior to the wedding. The process takes at least six months but most engaged couples start earlier. The engaged couples also need to meet with the wedding coordinator (Tonia Cole with Sue Fry starting to assist) and Andy Eagan if the marriage is to occur at SMCC.

School Commission – Tim Runholt reported that the SMCS Commission has spent the bulk of the year developing new Bylaws to ensure they are more in line with the current functions of the Commission of an advisory role for the Principal. These were ratified at the February meeting. Recent emphasis has been on the identification and ratification of new members. A meeting earlier in the month for those interested drew a good deal of interest. Enrollment is up with only one student (other than Eight grade) not returning (although there is no waiting list). There will be two K and 2nd grade classes with aides in two other grades. The Commission is planning their annual teacher appreciation week.

Finance Commission – Marty Meyer reported that the Finance Commission reviewed the two previous months of financials at the most recent meeting. Collections were back up with the Lent & Easter season. The Capitol Campaign is going well with \$104,000 pledged with an additional \$30,000 from the Archdiocese. The participation rate is very gratifying. The project itself is going well with the windows work nearly complete, working around various Church functions.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes were approved and seconded as corrected.

Good of the Parish – The comments placed in the new Good of the Parish box were reviewed and discussed. Some of the comments will be further reviewed for the best way to potentially deal with the issue raised. Issues included the washing of hands during Holy Thursday, parking for the handicapped and potential changes to assist some parishioners during communion.

Old Business/Follow-up

-Volunteer Form/Stewardship – Lee Ann reported that there were suggested changes to the form to bring it up to date with current volunteer opportunities. The changes are small and will be complete by Pentecost.

-Revision of Constitution – The proposal to address attendance was approved.

-Nominating Committee (form & timing) – Kathy & Bill – The form for nominating Pastoral Council members was reviewed. Announcements regarding this has started to appear in the bulletin and pulpit announcements will begin next week. The Holy Spirit will be used to discern the new members on Pentecost Sunday.

Thank you cards/congratulations

-The Council indicated their thanks to all who worked on Lenten activities and will place this in the bulletin, cards will be sent to Angie Swiezy for her work with the SMRE students, Adam Antone (seminarian from Simon Brute) and Becky Weber for her work with the young students who signed during the Disabilities awareness Mass. A card of Congratulations will also be sent to Htoo Thu who won the Catholic Charity's Spirit of Service award.

Commission Reports

- **Social Life** – The Seder Meal, Fish Fry & Daughter & Mother Breakfast were all discussed and were successful and well received. The Seder meal was a great success among all those who attended.
- **Liturgy** – The Lenten season was very well received. The various Stations of the Cross presentations went very well with the youth dramatic presentation of special note.
- **Youth** – Julie Albertson sent a report that 20 SM youth participated in the Good Friday drama Were You There. It was well attended and received. 21 SMCC youth were confirmed after eight months of preparation. Requirements were meetings, confirmation study and twelve pastoral experiences providing them a firsthand look

at parish opportunities. Htoo Thu will receive the Spirit of Service award from Catholic Charities. Only one youth is presented in the Archdiocese and is the third SMCC youth in three years to receive the award. The young adults continue to meet on Mondays and will begin a new study in a few weeks.

- **Outreach** – The Disability Awareness weekend was this past weekend. Dorothy presented a report from Ginny O'Brien. The 11:45 Mass was the emphasis. Catechists and Friends from the SPRED group welcomed parishioners, did readings, carried the gifts and distributed materials after Mass. Young students from the school signed a song at the end of Mass. A reception was held at the end of Mass, hosted by three CRHP groups. Canine Companions for Independence were present.
- **Spiritual Life** – Deacon Tom discussed how please they were with participation with the Lenten & Easter activities. The Tri-Parish Mission will be hosted by St. Roch next year.
- **Communications** – Based upon a previous suggestion, recent bulletins are now available in the Narthex. Pictures of couples participating in the sacrament of marriage will be placed in the Narthex during the month of the wedding.
- **Upcoming Events** –
First Communion – May 7th
May Crowning – May 6th
Mary's Way - 5/11
Father & Chris Gudel (and others from the Archdiocese) will leave May 26th for India to attend Deacon Meril Sahayam's ordination.

Reminders

- **Next Meeting – May 26, 2016**
- **Prayer Leader – Dorothy**
- **Refreshments – Lee Ann**

