

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
Minutes for Meeting that took place on Thursday, August 6, 2020**

**Elected Members in Attendance:** Denise Blum, Donna Bodkin, Kelly Hartwig, Bill Keuper, Margie King  
**Elected Members Not Present:** Kevin Sims, Ed Cefalu, Sharon Lech  
**Ex Officio Members in Attendance:** Fr. Gardner, Jenni Petrey  
**Ex Officio Not Present:** Wilma McGlasson **Recording Secretary:** Janice Stentz

**Opening Prayer**

**June minutes:** Approved

**Fr. Gardner's Report  
In the Parish**

- Since the last PC meeting there have been funeral liturgies for Ray Dumont, Rosemary Pletikapich, and Fr. Jerry's mother, Connie Gardner.
- CMA 2020: The Archdiocese has surpassed its goal of \$5 million with a total of \$5.2 million in pledges (\$4.7 million received so far) from 25,192 households. For St. MM, of 671 households there have been 88 responses (13% participation) with pledges or donations totaling \$10,787. A total of \$9,561 of that amount has been received, representing 81% toward our parish goal of \$13,304.
- A weekly count of attendance at weekend Masses was requested by the Archdiocese at the beginning of the year and has resumed since the return to Mass on May 25. The weekly average attendance for all Masses from Jan. 5–Mar. 8 (before Covid) was 241 people/weekend and the average attendance from May 31–July 26 (since the return to Masses) was 121 people/per weekend.
- We continue to observe the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese to mitigate the spread of the virus with limited entrances, sanitizing stations, blocked pews, social distancing markers for the available pews seats, and asking all to wear facial masks while in church especially when moving to and from seats and during the communion procession.
- The celebration of First Communion has been taking place at Saturday 4:30 p.m. Masses for five First Communicants.
- Archbishop Schnurr granted permission for Fr. Jerry to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the parish, so the postponed conferral of the Sacrament for three of our young parishioners will take place at the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Sat., Aug. 22 at St.MM and at the 11 a.m. Mass on Sun., Aug 23 at Assumption.
- Fr. Jerry received notice that the next semi-annual rebate from the 1 Faith, 1 Hope, 1 Love campaign will be in the amount of \$2118.60 coming mid-August. Including the August rebate, the parish has received \$40,196.56 total as a result of fulfilled pledges. Fr. Jerry expressed his thanks to all who made a pledge and have been able to keep their commitment.

**In the Archdiocese**

- The Archdiocese will be celebrating its bicentennial in 2021. Events and initiatives have been moved to take place beginning in Spring 2021 through Spring 2022 due to Covid concerns. It is hoped the change will allow for activities to take place when there will be fewer precautions needed. The Archdiocesan-wide service day originally scheduled for Oct. 10, 2020 will be rescheduled for a date in April 2021. All parishes have been asked to consider ways they can celebrate this historic milestone within their own parishes.
- A pastoral letter by Archbishop Schnurr titled "Radiate Christ" was published in the June issue of the Catholic Telegraph magazine on the occasion of the bicentennial of the Archdiocese. In it, he invites us to a celebration of gratitude for what has been given us these past two hundred years, but also the opportunity to reflect anew on our mission as Christian disciples "to radiate Christ".
- St. Peter in Chains Cathedral Christmas Tree Decoration: The parish has been contacted about supplying a Christmas ornament that represents the parish for the annual tree display. It should be modern, durable (not fragile) and artistic (not crafty). There are guidelines provided and someone or a group will need to identify both a design and method of fabrication. An inquiry will go out to see if we have any fine artisans in the parish who could help with this project which is due in November.
- iVOTECATHOLIC.org is a new initiative in the Archdiocese to help form consciences for faithful citizenship leading up to this fall's general election.
- "Pray A Minute" initiative launched recently. Its goal is 1 million hours of prayers for peace, justice and goodwill from now until World Day of Prayer for Peace on Jan 1, 2021. Catholics are asked to commit to pray one minute more than they already do every day for this specific intention. Pledges can be made at [www.PrayAMinute.com](http://www.PrayAMinute.com)
- The third annual Day of Prayer for the Church and the Victims of Abuse takes place on Fri., Sept. 11. In addition to a Votive Mass of the Mystery of the Holy Cross celebrated by Archbishop Schnurr at 11:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains, all are encouraged to observe this day in parishes, schools, and other institutions.

**O.L.G. School**

A new school year and the resumption of in-class teaching is expected to begin on Thu., Aug. 20. State health orders require all in-school adults and students (K-12) to wear facial masks at all times.

**Faith Formation Director's Report** – provided by Wilma

**Scripture Study:** A restart of this program is being considered for the beginning of September, to take place in a large room such as Madonna Hall or the Faith Formation Office.

**Dynamic Catholic Book Club:** Books have been reviewed and the group plans to meet again in the Faith Formation Office in September. Attendees should be ready to discuss *Catholics Come Home* which would have been received at the last meeting. If you are interested in joining in on this book study and need a book, contact the parish office, 521-7387.

**Sacrament Preparation:** Three candidates are prepared and looking forward to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sat., Aug. 22 at the 4:30 p.m. Mass.

**C.L.O.W.:** Leaders will continue to stay in touch with these children throughout this time of not being able to meet. We are looking at more things to offer them as we wait until they can meet again on Sundays.

**P.S.R.** The teachers of this program will need to meet to make plans for this group of children, which is not possible as a class at this time. A definite plan may not be determined until the start of the school year. Materials will be provided to the parents regarding home schooling for their children. Meetings with parents and other support will be provided as needed.

*The immediate future of what programs we can offer and what we cannot offer will depend on the status of our community, and the world around us. In the meantime, there are many things we can do to help those suffering in poverty, homelessness, illness, loneliness, etc. Please do what you can to help be a solution to this suffering.*

**Communications Commission (CC):** Janice Stentz reported

There are no projects currently being worked on. The printer of the newsletters has not begun printing them again so any new issues are on hold for now. It was noted that the parish website Alerts page will be updated with some of the new information about parish activity cancellations.

**Finance:** Jenni reported

- The parish financial report thru July 31 was presented to Council. Collections are down as expected due to Covid-19. Online Giving currently has 32 active users.

- There is a Finance Commission meeting on Thu., Aug. 20 to review the annual budget in person.

- Jenni is prepared to file the necessary documentation to request forgiveness for the SBA loan the parish received as Covid-19 assistance. It is expected that the loan will be forgiven since the money was spent according to the SBA guidelines.

**Buildings & Grounds:** Jenni reported

- Bill Johansing has been painting all railings and other decorative fencing around the parish grounds black (previously brick red).

- New planters have been placed around the flag pole.

**St. MM Parish Service Organization:** Denise reported

The group currently has no activities planned due to Covid-19 limitations and precautions.

**Parish Bingo program:** Denise reported

This program continues to be on hold. The annual inventory required by the State of Ohio will be done as scheduled in October.

**Ongoing Business – Lifetouch Photo Directory**

Denise has not been notified by the company yet of their restart, but she suggested that we delay the directory until at least Spring 2021. She will contact the company to let them know what has been decided.

**Ongoing Business – Parish 100th Anniversary in 2020**

The planning team met on July 16. It was decided to cancel/postpone all remaining scheduled events for the 100th anniversary due to Covid-19 concerns. The Mass with Archbishop Schnurr is still moving forward as planned for Sun., Oct. 11 unless the Archbishop decides otherwise. The reception that was planned for after Mass will not take place.

**Ongoing Business – Parish Council Nominations and Election**

None of the parishioners nominated for Council accepted. With the difficulty of conducting the process to identify new nominees at this time, Margie and Bill agreed to remain on council for 2nd terms and Denise was given special permission to remain on Council beyond the conclusion of her 2nd term until nominations and an election can be revisited, possibly next year.

**New Business – TV Raffle**

Plans are being worked out for a fundraising event that includes the raffle of a 55" smart TV which was able to be purchased using credits from Bingo supply purchase incentive points. More details to follow.

**Closing Prayer**

**Next PC meeting:** Thur., Sept. 3, 2020

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz