

St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes for Meeting that took place on Thursday, March 4, 2021

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

Opening Prayer – Prayers have been provided by the Archdiocese with a focus on Beacons of Light for use at meetings and other parish gatherings in order to put attention on it.

February minutes: Approved

Fr. Gardner's Report
In the Parish

- With ongoing concerns for the pandemic, we continue to observe the practices and guidelines for safe gatherings at our liturgies and in the decisions for the use of our facilities. The Archbishop's dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues for the present time.
- Since the last PC meeting there have been three funeral liturgies at St. Margaret Mary Church for Mary Dumont, Ruth Ann Cramer and Lois Knolle.
- The celebration of Ash Wednesday took place on Feb. 17 with morning Mass at St. MM at 8 a.m. The Vatican's direction for the distribution of ashes took the form of sprinkling of ashes over the person's head/crown.
- The praying of the Stations of the Cross will continue to take place on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. through weeks 1–5 of Lent at St. MM. The rosary takes place in the church at 3 p.m. on Fridays.
- We approach the major feast of St. Joseph on Fri., Mar. 19 in the Year of St. Joseph. With the morning Mass already scheduled at 8:30 a.m. this will be noted in the bulletin on March 14. The March 2021 Catholic Telegraph has a number of articles on the Year of St. Joseph.

In the Archdiocese

- CMA 2021 continues in the Archdiocese with households responding to the initial appeals made on Jan. 24 and Feb. 7. The parish's goal for the 2021 appeal is \$12,646.00. As of Feb. 23 there have been 65 responses from 394 households pledging a combined \$8,365.00 with \$7,150.00 already received. This is 66% of our parish goal, and 16% participation.
- The pastoral planning process, Beacons of Light, continues in the evaluating stage of the data and information gathered in the fall of 2020. The beginning of the next phase is currently on schedule spring 2021. Recently a notice came from this planning office:

As you are aware, the goal of Beacons of Light is to form groupings of parishes that will come together as one faith community. While some have suggested that "Pastoral Region" continue to be used, our intent is for parishes to collaborate together in new ways in the future. After consultation and prayerful consideration, the decision has been made to call these groupings "Families of Parishes". This expression originated in the Diocese of London, Ontario and has been adopted by the Archdiocese of Detroit. We will continue to develop and articulate the vision of Families of Parishes including the theological and ecclesiological foundations for the entire Beacons of Light process. Encourage everyone who is able to register to receive the electronic newsletter at catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light.

In the Pastoral Region

We continue to move toward the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. As mentioned earlier, the schedule has been set with Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil liturgies taking place at Assumption Church in 2021. The Good Friday liturgy will be held at both churches in the afternoon.

O.L.G. School

- Fr. Jerry presided at the Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday school liturgy.
- Father presented information to PC members regarding action taken by St. Ann's pastor, Fr. McCarthy, to not renew the lease with the school.

Faith Formation Director's Report – provided by Wilma

Sacrament Preparation: Three children have completed studies and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They are now preparing for First Communion which they will celebrate after Easter.

C.L.O.W.: Several children are nourished in their faith via weekly take home lessons that they receive from the CLOW teachers on Sundays. There are also seasonal materials offered to them. They are participating in the Rice Bowl program and other Lenten reminders as offered. All look forward to the time when they can again attend class via the dismissal during the readings which are offered at their level of understanding.

Adult Faith Formation: The team is considering offering a few reminders during this year of St. Joseph as he is honored at various times.

ZOOM and other forms of communication have become more popular during the pandemic. St. MM's Faith Formation Office is working on an offering that will likely be available shortly after Easter and before the summer vacations
Dynamic Catholic Book Club: The group continues to read a designated book and keep in touch via phone and email. They are reading the book offered by Pope Francis, *Fratelli TUTTI on Fraternity and Social Friendship*. It is surprising how well he addresses our current social problems and his urging that they be corrected. It should be a must read for all of us.

Little Black Books were sent to parishioners who are home bound or otherwise not able to attend Mass.

Easter Dinner Bags: Decorated bags are being filled by parishioners who will return them to the parish by Mar. 21 and taken to Valley Inter-Faith Center by our staff. The bags and instructions for items to fill them with are available in the Holy Family Room for those who would like to take one. It is much appreciated by the Center as it offers something special to the people in need.

Child Protection Program: The VIRTUS program will be replaced by a video-based program called Safe Parish within the next few months. Please stay current with your monthly communications with VIRTUS. Anyone who is current on VIRTUS will be moved to Safe Parish and the program will be explained. If you are behind, you risk losing your status and having to sign up on Safe Parish in order to volunteer to work with children in parish programs.

Communications Commission (CC): Janice reported

There has been no meeting or other activity related to Communications since the last PC meeting.

Finance: Jenni reported

The parish financial report thru Feb. 28 was presented to Council. The overall budget is slightly less than the budgeted for amount but in general things are good. The Finance Commission members will meet on Thu., Mar. 18 to begin working on the budget for 2021/22.

Buildings & Grounds: Jenni reported

Warm weather projects are being prepared for. Exterior painting will resume soon. Dumpsters have been ordered for trash that has been collected while cleaning out some of the older unused spaces in the school building.

St. MM Parish Service Organization: Denise reported

In place of the annual Easter Egg Scramble for the kids, gift bags are being prepared for the children to take home with them on Easter Sunday.

Parish Bingo program: Denise reported

Bingo continues to be on hold with no plans to restart in the near future. Jenni recently renewed the parish bingo license with the State of Ohio.

Ongoing business – Mega Split-the-Pot raffle

Jenni thanked all who helped make the raffle a success. The winner took home \$4807.50.

Ongoing business – Parish Council Nominations & Elections

Nomination forms will go into the bulletin for Mar. 13/14 and 20/21 and will be pre-announced in the bulletin Mar. 6/7

Closing Prayer

Next PC meeting: Thur., April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz