

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes for Meeting that took place on Thursday, April 8, 2021**

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

March 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. Hymnals have been returned to the pews and the choir can now be welcomed back when they are comfortable.
- Since the last PC meeting there has been one funeral liturgy at St. Margaret Mary Church for Herm Koehling.
- The liturgies and devotions scheduled for the Lenten season have taken place. The celebration of the liturgies of Holy Week for the pastoral region also have taken place as we meet on the Thursday in the Octave of Easter. Attendance for most liturgies was normal in this time of health concerns, while the recent Sunday Easter liturgy had 194 people in attendance. This was over the numbers allotted for social distancing. Gift bags of Easter religious themed gifts and Easter candy were distributed to the children in attendance after the Mass (donated by St. Margaret Mary Social Group).

In the Archdiocese

- CMA 2021 current status: The parish's goal for the 2021 appeal is \$12,646.00. As of Mar. 25 there have been 82 responses out of 394 households mailed to for the appeal, pledging a combined \$9,815.00 with \$8,598.00 received. This is 78% of our parish goal, and 21% participation.
- The Archdiocese's pastoral planning process Beacons of Light continues, with some recommendations expected this spring as they continue to evaluate data collected in the fall of 2020. The priests' Convocation (virtual) is scheduled for Apr. 21 with half of the day devoted to this planning with reporting and updating on current status of plans, with the first part of the day devoted to a previously scheduled theme on racism. Fr. Jerry anticipates that he will need to assign some parishioners to serve on a leadership and planning team as we transition towards the implementation of Families of Parishes.
- Fr. Jerry encourages everyone who is able to register to receive the Beacons of Light electronic newsletter at catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light.

In the Pastoral Region

In addition to each parish Lenten schedule, the Triduum liturgies of Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil were jointly celebrated this year at Assumption Parish. All went well.

O.L.G. School

- The three OLG covenant pastors and OLG administrative personnel met with Archbishop Schnurr, the Catholic School Superintendent and Archdiocesan office personnel on Mar. 18 regarding the lease renewal for the school. The agreements made to move forward were seven fold—principally to pay the requested lease amount to St. Ann for the 2021-22 school year; the intention to move toward an agreement on the fuller expression of the lease and possible future years; discerning with transparent efforts with each parish's councils and finance bodies for future years and the financial feasibility for this; and to adapt the OLG Education Commission to a set term for the juridic pastor (two successive years) with rotation among the pastors. Some of the language toward this needs to be clarified moving forward.
- Members of the council were given a copy of a letter jointly signed by the three pastors intended for parishioners and OLG parents on the assurance of OLG remaining open and continuing at the St. Ann site for the 2021-22 school year.
- Fr. Jerry presided at the Mar. 9 and Mar. 30 school liturgies and is next scheduled on Apr. 27.

Faith Formation Director's Report – provided by Wilma

NOTE: *Unless otherwise stated, questions or requests for additional information for any of the Faith Formation activities mentioned below should be directed to the parish Faith Formation Director, Wilma McGlasson, 729-0222 or email wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

Sacrament Preparation: The three children preparing for First Communion are doing well with the help of their families in the home-schooling program. They meet in the Faith Formation Office after Sunday Mass as scheduled. Two will celebrate First Communion on Sun., Apr. 25 and the third will be on Sun., May 9. Please keep them in your prayers.

C.L.O.W.: Leaders for this program continue to provide the children with materials as well as other reminders for Lent, Easter and special devotion to St. Joseph.

Adult Faith Formation: CREA, the organization for Faith Formation Directors, has provided many offerings (mostly via Zoom) as they support their members during the pandemic.

Easter Dinner Bags collection for Valley Interfaith: Thanks to all who participated in the annual food collection for the poor and homeless. Special thanks to Bill Johansing for delivering the bags to the center in Lockland. They were very appreciative of our thoughtfulness.

VIRTUS Child Protection Program: Reminder that this program will be replaced with "Safe Parish" in the next few weeks. Please keep your VIRTUS current until the new program is in place.

Connecting with Disconnectedness Through Prayer: This reflection will be offered by Norm Zins via Zoom on Sun., Apr 18 at 1 p.m. To receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting, call 521-7387 or send your email address to Wilma McGlasson or Maureen Mason at the parish office, wmcglasson@fuse.net. or mmason@zoomtown.com. Your email address is the only way you can receive an invitation and login to the presentation.

Communications Commission (CC): Janice reported

There has been no meeting or other activity related to Communications since the last PC meeting. Some videos and information provided by the Archdiocese related to Lent and Easter were added to the parish website. Fr. Jerry reported that Diocesan is still not printing to full capacity so resumption of the parish newsletter continues to be on hold.

Finance: Jenni provided report

The parish financial report thru Mar. 31 was presented to Council. Jenni was not at the meeting to answer questions or clarify information in the report at this time.

Buildings & Grounds: Jenni reported

A dumpster has been rented and they are in the process of cleaning classrooms.

St. MM Parish Service Organization: Denise reported

Two applications for scholarships have been requested and sent out. The scholarships will be awarded on Sun., May 23 at the reception for graduates after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Parish Bingo program: Denise reported

Bingo continues to be on hold.

Ongoing business – Parish Council Nominations & Elections

Sharon reported that none of the people who were nominated were interested in running for election. Kevin has agreed to remain for a second term and Denise is willing to continue beyond her original two terms until someone can be identified to replace her. It is not known if Kelly is interested in remaining as well. There could still be one open position to fill if she is not. This will be revisited at the next PC meeting.

New business – Assumption fundraiser

Fr. Jerry reported that Assumption will be having another Split-the-Pot raffle starting soon to generate some replacement income since they will not be having their parish festival this year.

Closing Prayer

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

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz