

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
February 4, 2015
7:00 pm

Present: Monsignor Amey, George Griffin, Paul Barrett, Matt Curley, Debra Eisel, Gary Funkhouser, Karen Gilroy, Erin Iturriaga, Joan Madaras, Matt McCormick and Virginia Onley

Absent: Fr. Chip Lockett, Kammie Bell, John duFief, Cele Galczynski, and Lacy Prebula
Carole Day arrived at the end of the meeting.

Meeting was called to order and Monsignor Amey gave the opening prayer.

The minutes from the December 2, 2014 meeting were approved with the omission of the liaison information that was discussed. Joan will bring that information up to date in these minutes.

Pastor's Report

Monsignor presented the Cardinal's Appeal to the parish last weekend. He wanted to be sure the message of charity was relayed to the parishioners. We can always do more, but our pledge given last year was the most generous so far. This coming weekend is the In-Pew Campaign and the following week is the follow-up.

The renovations to the school and parish are progressing. The inside of the Chapel has been entirely painted at no cost to the parish and we are very grateful to the benefactor. The girl's room of the school has been renovated and looks great. We hope to raise money from this year's gala to renovate the boy's room in the school this summer. Next week, renovations to the Main Church bathrooms will begin. One bathroom will be unisex and allow for handicapped access.

Faith Direct has asked us to allow promotions to have more people sign up through electronic giving. One promotion encourages parishioners to give up using contribution envelopes throughout Lent, assuming they will use electronic giving. We are not sure that is a good idea, since parishioners still like to give in various ways.

A proposal was given to the parish to allow an organization called CFC Youth Central Maryland Music Ministry to provide music for our 5 pm Sunday Mass. Monsignor wants to be sure we have quality music that is consistent before we make any changes to the current quiet Mass. Many people have commented to him that they like the peaceful aura of the Mass but others like the music which is played in other local parishes. (Matt will explain more about CFC under Old Business).

Monsignor wants to move forward establishing a building committee. Specifically, to advise the parish on Mary's House, the church roof and the school roof. He will work with John duFief to form the committee.

Monsignor has received certificates for two new EMOHCs and will make plans to install them during an upcoming Mass.

Monsignor informed us of the upcoming Catholic Lobby Night which is in Annapolis.

Monsignor advised us of the current financial position of the parish so far as of 12/31/14. The school income was \$791,984.65 and expenses were \$906,413.49 which left a deficit of \$114,428.84. The fiscal year stops June 30 however we show expenses for payroll to the teachers through August. The parish income so far this fiscal year is \$916,745.58 and expenses are \$582,439.52. This shows a surplus \$334,306.06 year to date actual net church income. Debby clarified that we go into the year with a budget but also expect the parish to contribute income to the school budget. This helps to keep the tuition down and allows the school to function at a top notch level. They are trying very hard and making progress to keep expenses in line with the budget. Karen commented that in the past, the churches had to support the schools at a higher percentage however the percentage now is lower which is common throughout the entire diocese. The annual financial report does not reflect the full understanding of the parish subsidy. The school also brings in families to the parish and they usually become very active in parish life. Erin commented that she is surprised that so many “older parishioners” are not aware of the improvements to the school such as the parish hall and the library. We hope to work together to have more activities that are inclusive of all age groups within the parish. It is also up to parishioners to get involved and not just attend Mass on the weekends. Debby mentioned that we have Open House in the school several times a year when anyone can visit. It was also mentioned that we could create a map of our parish grounds and/or have signs outside pointing to each location. It was suggested that we could add a footnote to our parish annual budget that it is the decision of the parish that we are going to support our school.

Monsignor thought these comments were all in line as the Synod of Bishops is again asking for the input of the parishes through a self-assessment. The Synod of Bishops is preparing the XIV Ordinary General Assembly scheduled to take place from Oct 4-25, 2015, which will consider the topic of *The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World*.

Monsignor informed us of the upcoming Third Archdiocesan Women’s Conference on March 21, at Resurrection Parish with Cardinal Wuerl as a presenter.

Old Business

Matt further explained the CFC Youth Music Ministry. He made sure they were aware that this would be a solid commitment to play every Sunday evening Mass. Matt has heard them perform and supports having this ministry for the parish hoping it would build the Sunday evening Mass. Matt would encourage the youth (group) to attend and participate more during Mass and then they would have a short prayer service afterward. He hopes this would also attract young adults to attend and form a cohesive group with the teens. Both of those generations seem to appreciate more contemporary music. Matt is working on outreach to Montgomery College Catholics since the college is within our parish boundaries. The current CFC band has a least 6 members and he has heard them play and fully supports them. Matt McCormick also supports having this type of music to encourage more youth to attend Mass. There are also a lot of young adults moving into downtown Rockville. Matt will find out if there are any expenses or collections that CFC would request from the parish.

Pastoral Council By-Laws

George will continue working with Gary and Fr. Chip to form the By-laws for the Pastoral Council. Monsignor hopes that everyone who is currently on the council will stay for at

least two years and ideally three years. George may wish to step down after this year since he has been the Chairman for so many years.

A template was created to help liaisons deal with suggestions from parishioners. Karen was able to use the format and thought it worked very well to determine if an idea was feasible. We now need to inform the parish of the purpose of the committee liaisons. As was discussed at the last Pastoral Council meeting, we have renamed the parish committee headings to align with the *Indicators of Vitality*. Our committees will fall under the headings of Worship, Education, Stewardship/Administration, Service and Community. Each Liaison, with their contact information, will go first under the heading to make it easy for people to call with suggestions/ideas. Some of the committees were moved into other headings as is now noted in the ministry list in the bulletin. We still need pictures of the Pastoral Council members to put on our web site and to post in the Main Church.

New Business

The Annual Parish Auction and Gala is on February 14, and the theme is *A Love Story*. Raffle tickets are available until the night of the Gala.

George suggested we invite a member of the Finance Council to join an upcoming meeting in case there are additional questions which need further explanation.

Karen contacted all of the subcommittees under her council to reach out as a resource. She determined that the CYO leaders would like to step down after this year. Karen will speak with them further and advise them to contact Monsignor to come up with a plan for succession. He would like to meet with both of the current leaders, Karen and anyone interested in taking over the CYO program.

Erin commented that she is glad to have Matt McCormick as a liaison for Service. He has been a great help to her already. Erin informed us of a special Montgomery County Council Town Hall Meeting on February 26 for leaders of the faith community to find out what issues most concern residents. Matt and Erin are meeting with Stepping Stone Shelter to see how they are helping with homeless women who are pregnant. They are also working on a flyer that explains all of the support that is needed for social concerns.

Matt and Lacy are starting small groups that will be for all adults. They hope to start the programs to coincide with Lent. We recently purchased a canopy so we can start a hospitality tent outside the church after the Masses on Sundays. We will offer registration forms, parish directories and other parish information. Hopefully, this will encourage people to become more active in the parish ministries.

Next meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 18, at 7 pm. Monsignor gave the closing prayer.