

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
October 21, 2015
7:00 pm

Present: Monsignor Amey, Fr. Chip Lockett, George Griffin, Paul Barrett (Left meeting due to an emergency), Kammie Bell, Matt Curley, Carole Day, Debby Eisel, Gary Funkhouser, Erin Iturriaga, Joan Madaras, and Virginia Onley.

Absent: John duFief, Cele Galczynski, Karen Gilroy, Matt McCormick and Lacy Prebula.

Bishop Holley visited the rectory for his annual parish visitation. He greeted the council members at the beginning of the meeting and we watched a 13 minute video that showed excerpts from Pope Francis's visit. He particularly asked that we watch the joy on the faces of the children as they see the Pope. Bishop Holley then left the meeting.

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

The minutes from the September 16, 2015 meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report

Monsignor reminded us that the annual golf tournament is tomorrow at Redgate Golf Course. He and Fr. Chip will be playing golf.

The annual parish visitation today with Bishop Holley went very well. He met extensively with Monsignor Amey and Fr. Chip, together and individually.

The ADW has recognized that we are facing a few challenges this year. We are proceeding with a feasibility study to determine the future needs of our parish and school. Monsignor will have a meeting with Bishop Knestout in November. He hopes to get a better appreciation for what all of the parishes around us are facing and what information the current trends give us. The Catholic Schools Office recently met with Monsignor and Debby to offer their advice and to give us any assistance that is needed to help with enrollment. Monsignor feels we are particularly strong in our support of "Walking with Francis". There is a long standing tradition of generosity at St. Mary's.

The Retired Priests Collection is Nov. 7/8. He hopes our parish will be generous in supporting the needs of our retired priests in the ADW.

An anonymous donor will once again donate 1500 of the Matthew Kelly book, *Rediscover Jesus*. We will hand them out at Christmas this year. This will be the third year that this family has donated a Matthew Kelly book. The donor asks that from time to time our priests use information gained from the book in their homilies, etc. He hopes this will encourage our parishioners to actually read the book.

The Filipino Community has gone through a change in their organization. The Mother Butler Group is now under the St. Mary's Filipino Catholic Community. A vote for the president of the community was held and the new community is being modeled after the Blessed

Sacrament program. Rhoe Gueverra was voted as the new president. The Mother Butler group is a prayer group and will continue to sew baptismal bibs and assist in cleaning the Chapel and the sacred linens used in the Chapel.

Monsignor gave Bishop Holley a copy of his annual financial report to the parish which he gave on the weekend of October 3/4. Monsignor commented to the Bishop that we have had a very successful year and that we have a lot to look forward to in our parish.

Old Business

Update of the building committee-

George mentioned that the ADW has given their approval for the feasibility study. Monsignor signed the contract with Delizzio Architects to proceed.

The Welcome Tent-

We will continue with the welcome tent/room once the renovation to the room in the lobby of the church is completed. There hasn't been enough help in the past couple of weeks to keep the tent manned after all of the Masses.

The Health Ministry has begun giving monthly blood pressure screenings after the 9:00 and 10:30 am Masses on Sundays. Erin asked if they can use the welcome room for their screenings. Monsignor thought the room could be used as long as there are no conflicts.

New Business

Debby asked that we choose a date for the Multi-Cultural Day event that usually takes place at the end of January. The chairperson for the event, a school parent, has been chosen. We decided on January 30, 2016.

A discussion about how we advertise parish and school events was opened. Kammie mentioned that many of the CCD families don't always hear about upcoming events and therefore don't feel included as part of the parish family. She would like to use social media in a variety of ways to attract all of the different dynamics of the parish. Debby mentioned that they use the school family emails to send out weekly notices. The secretary of the school can also send emails to the CCD families about parish events. We currently have an email sign up on our website for parishioners who want to receive emails about specific events. The email blasts are very helpful because you can see how many people opened the emails and how many clicked through to more information. Matt would like to have a parish "email sign-up weekend" for those who want weekly emails sent to them. You can always unsubscribe if you no longer want the emails. Then we would need to find a volunteer to help with social media on a regular basis. We usually have flyers, bulletin blurbs, email blasts, signs, posters and pulpit announcements about events. Facebook and Twitter are used occasionally. Perhaps we need to think of more ways to get the attention of our parishioners. The parish council members should be ambassadors and talk to other parishioners about what is happening in our parish. If parishioners don't attend Mass then there is not a lot we can do to get their attention. The main goal is to rebuild and strengthen the community any way we can. Kammie stressed that CCD families are a huge part of the community and need to be included in all events. George recommended that

we should let Karen Gilroy know about our discussion and get her thoughts since she is the *Liaison for Community*.

Liaison reports-

Paul had to leave the meeting because of a family emergency. George reported for him that the Liturgy Committee met last week. They have scheduled a Mass of Anointing on November 21, at 1 pm. The Mass of Remembrance for All Souls is on November 2, at 7 pm and the Thanksgiving Mass is at 10 am in the Main Church followed by coffee and donuts hosted by the Knights of Columbus. The First Sunday of Advent is November 29.

Erin asked if we could assemble the Giving Trees before Advent and leave them undecorated in the main church since they are too heavy to move around. Monsignor gave his permission to set them out ahead of time, and it will let parishioners know that Christmas is coming.

Kammie gave Karen's report of the Oktoberfest which took place on October 3. The event was a great success. There were 50 RSVP's but actually 125 people attended. There was a profit of \$750 for the evening. The profit was attributed to the low cost for getting the food and with the help of Guy Poirier who volunteered to cook the food.

Kammie also reported that the Boy Scouts are willing to help with any cemetery projects that would give them service hours or fulfill an Eagle Scout project. All of the work would need to be approved by Monsignor Amey and coordinated with Kevin Daly. Kammie received a picture of the cemetery fence that lines Baltimore Road from Andrew Martin. He made some suggestions for repairing and improving the cemetery. The fence is in great need of repair or removal. We may need to check on city regulations before we can proceed with any property improvements.

Joan requests that all Pastoral Council Members send a picture of themselves to put in a frame which will hang in the vestibule of the church. This will help parishioners know who is who on Parish Council.

Debby reported on the school. The students are continuing their service projects for "Walk with Francis". The McCormick family is going on a mission trip to Haiti in December. The students are taking up a collection of toys, toiletries, socks and underwear for them to ship to Haiti before their mission trip. The school takes up several collections for a local title one school. They are collecting Halloween costumes for the upcoming holiday; provide, on a weekly basis, "smart sacks" (food for needy students); and will have a winter coat drive for children. They will be doing a Christmas stocking project for the troops which will go to Iraq. The annual school appeal will take place on the Nov. 14/15. Debby will be applying for another Aging Schools Grant to ask for funds to renovate the upper hall girls and boys rooms. The first School Advisory Board meeting for this school year was last week. Pat Gilroy is the new SAB chair. Mary McCormick has agreed to take charge of the Greg Gannon Food Drive this year which is on December 5, the same day as the St. Nick Festival. Debby has reached out to the Director of Marketing from the ADW to meet for marketing ideas for the school. The focus is on increasing enrollment in school.

Matt reported that our Youth Group is going well. They are having the second annual wreath sale fundraiser. The students will attend the Fall retreat Nov. 13-15. The RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation of Teens) recently merged with our Youth group and the retreat is mandatory for the teens. At least 35 students from our parish will attend the retreat with other local parishes. The Youth Group will go to a bonfire, corn maise and hayride at Sharps Farm. Monsignor clarified that we have RCIA, (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens) and RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children). These classes are to prepare them for receiving sacraments.

Erin mentioned that she and Matt McCormick would like to talk to Monsignor and Fr. Chip more about hosting a parish mission trip. She attended the shelter walk this past Sunday for Rainbow Place Shelter and Community Ministries. This weekend is the fall clothing drive to benefit Interfaith Clothing. Our adopted day of prayer for life is next Sunday, October 25. Msgr. Amey set this time aside for our parish community to pray together. It will begin with Eucharistic Adoration in Our Lady's Chapel from 11 am to 2 pm. We will pray for the life of the unborn, people with disabilities, the sick and the aging and the underprivileged. After Adoration, from 3 to 7 pm we will pray as a community outside the late-term abortion clinic in Germantown. Erin informed us that there are seven abortion clinics in Montgomery County which is more than Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Washington, DC combined. Montgomery County has no maternity homes to help women when choosing life for their unborn. Most pregnancy centers help women in poverty but struggle in reaching women who are making abortion decisions. There are not enough places to provide housing and to protect them.

Our Sodality is sponsoring a fashion show for women on November 22, from 2 to 4 pm. There is advertising for the event in the bulletin and a flyer will be stuffed in the bulletin in November.

Next meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 18, at 7 pm. Fr. Chip gave the closing prayer.

Pastoral Council Positions

President-Monsignor Amey
Chairperson- George Griffin
1st VC and Building-John duFief
2nd VC-Gary Funkhouser
Recording Secretary – Joan Madaras
Corresponding Secretary-Virginia Onley
Liaison for Community-Karen Gilroy
Liaison for Service- Matt McCormick
Liaison for Worship- Paul Barrett
Liaison for Stewardship/Admin-Kammie Bell
Liaison for Education – Carole Day