

Parish Saints Mary and Joseph
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2015

- 1) Call to Order--7:15pm
- 2) Opening prayer and Discernment-- Fr. John (10 min./18 actual)
- 3) Pastor's Report--Fr. John (5-7/11 min.)
 - a) No word yet from diocese on the Long Range Planning report
 - b) This year's deficit is dramatically less than last year's, but Carol is checking the figures for accuracy
 - c) The school has begun a Strategic Planning process funded by the Knights of Columbus
 - d) The Thompson's and the Bank's are running the Feb. 14th comedy night at Castleton, which features comedian Paul Nardizzi and hypnotist Pete Mamos. Tickets are available at the Parish office.
 - e) Fr. Ed Quinnan, S.J., the Jesuit Assistant for the Northeast Province, will visit the parish Feb. 21-22. He plans to meet with the staff and Parish council.
 - f) Jan Childs and Al Cormier were present at the Liturgy committee meeting to speak about Ministry Sunday. The committee would like to highlight a related group of ministries each month rather than have all ministries represented at one time. This would prevent overcrowding at MQP and would allow use of the church, versus the auditorium, at St. Joseph. Judi will get the Ministry Sunday planning group together to plan going forward. Judi will present the revised plan to the group when completed.
 - g) Upcoming Events
 - i) Jan 23rd at St. Joseph is the pro-life mass
 - ii) Volunteer night on Feb 5th. We invite about 200 people
 - iii) Feb 14, 6pm Comedy Night at Castleton
 - iv) Feb 18, Ash Wednesday
 - v) Lenten Retreat by Deacon Jay, Mar 9-12, 7:15am at St. Joseph and 7pm at MQP
- 4) Old Business:
 - a) Long Range Planning Report for Web--Subcommittee is finalizing (1/1 min.)
 - b) Website Migration Update--Susan (5/12 min.)
 - i) Due to other commitments, Elaine Lavin will not be able to help Susan with work on the new website. We are grateful to Elaine for her generous contribution to the site over the past two years. The new website can go live after review this weekend by council members. Technically, the site looks good, but we can still improve regarding user experience. Council members will meet at 11am on Saturday to evaluate the new website. Grateful thanks to Susan for her timeless work on this project.
 - ii) How will the website be maintained? We are advertising in the bulletin for more help. Denise knows how to add bulletin files to the website. It is important that we keep the site fresh.

- c) Witness Testimony at Mass—update. Fr. Tom (1-5/5 min.)
 - i) The witness by Phil at St. Joseph was well received. Further witness testimonies may be moved to the end of the liturgy to allow proper meditation on the homily.
 - d) Music—Parish youth recruitment update. Shawn, Sue (5/8 min.)
 - i) How do we reach out to our youth to encourage them to use their musical gifts? Shawn/Sue will brainstorm on this topic.
 - ii) Kyle offered to do music at the 5pm mass. If he did that, he would add a once a month adoration-praise-speaker event for youth like they have in Lowell.
 - e) Medjugorje; Big Screen—Postponed, placed in “parking lot” (0/0 min.)
 - f) Are Pastoral Council members welcoming churchgoers before/after mass?? ALL (5/8 min)
 - i) At St. Joseph there is not much space for more greeters and the ushers are doing a good job.
 - ii) At MQP some greeters need coaching and some masses need more greeters
- 5) New Business—The Way Forward: Becoming a community of missionary disciples within a fully welcoming parish (30-60/47 min.)
- a) Coordinators
 - i) At St. Joseph, each mass has a coordinator to do the scheduling and to oversee the working of each mass. This is working very well.
 - ii) At MQP, we have Steve Barretto to coordinate the 11am, but at the 4pm and 9:30am things can sometimes fall through the cracks.
 - iii) An area for growth/improvement is identified as encouragement to the greeters to be exuberant in their style and to reach out in particular to people they do not know. We could offer ongoing training for ushers/greeters.
 - iv) Ushers can be encouraged to make the, sometimes challenging, effort each week to find new people to bring up the gifts, which is preferable to having the ushers themselves bringing up the gifts or using the same people on multiple Sundays.
 - v) An area of inconsistency is two different collection methods at the two churches. For special collections, we used to announce the purpose, but this practice has fallen off.
 - vi) A Community Coordinator sub-committee is now established of Chris, Amy, Tina. The goal is to come up with action steps for making all masses into “welcoming communities”, and then recruit interested volunteers to fulfill those steps. We will try to tap into the people have been Pastoral Council candidates over the past two years. We can also tap those who signed up at last year’s Ministry Weekend. The committee’s must decide what practically can and cannot be done.
 - b) Theme homilies
 - i) Preaching seems to be relevant to parishioner’s daily lives.
 - ii) Racial tensions are in the news. Martin Luther King’s day is coming up. This is a community theme.
 - c) Families:
 - i) We have grown the presence of children at the 11am mass at St. Joseph. Maybe we can approach the parents attending that Mass as to their interests in assisting with other ministries.
 - ii) Happily, we have a few more Hispanic Mass goers.
 - iii) Sub-committee: Christie, Joe, Kaitlyn (who will be joining the Pastoral Council starting next month). This group will evaluate the current needs and recommend improvements.
- 6) Other Business

- a) Should we refrain from contacting people until next meeting? Yes, if you have suggestions regarding sub-committees, please pass them on. (5 min)
 - b) Shawn: Should we put something about mercy meals into the bulletin, since this would give recognition to the Frahm's and others. This helps create a welcoming community, and could inspire others to volunteer. We could do this for other ministries as well. (5 min.)
 - c) Website pictures: Christie continues taking pictures. She will resend pictures to staff ladies, since they did not receive her previous emailing. (3 min.)
- 7) Closing Prayer – Fr. Bill (9:07pm)

Next meeting:

February 12, 2015 7:15pm

Emmaus Room, MQP