

SAINTS MARY and JOSEPH PARISH
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2015

- 1) Call to Order--7:15pm/7:24pm scheduled/actual
- 2) Opening prayer and Discernment– Fr. John (10/7 min)
- 3) Pastor’s Report—Fr. John (5-7/ 9 min)
 - a) Fr. John awaiting a date to meet with our Bishop. It has been delayed due to weather. They are trying to schedule the week of February 23rd.
 - b) Interviewing for a replacement for Mary Roy upon completion/revision of current job description. It is anticipated to have a replacement in place by April 1st at the latest. Reception for Mary will be held on Sunday, March 1 at MQP following the 11am Mass
 - c) Northeast Rehab has provided a donation to help pay for the flat screen TV, video, and computer hook up recently purchased
 - d) In lieu of Ministry Weekend, the committee is working on a plan to highlight different ministries monthly.
- 4) Old Business:
 - a) Long Range Planning Report for Web—(1/1 min)
 - i) LRP committee has completed the report. Fr. John will review and modify if needed.
 - b) New Website is UP! KUDOS to Susan Frazier for all her hard work and time. (5/13 min.)
 - i) Christi is trying to get the remaining staff pictures. She wants to come one more time to complete the photos for the staff who have agreed to be photographed for inclusion on the website.

- ii) Analytics by Susan shows good activity on our new site.
 - (1) Results of a 7day review – average 44 sessions/day and Sunday was a high day with 84 sessions logged. Most looked at site is Home Page (310) followed by Mass schedule (70)
- iii) Church donations can now be made on the website by using the “On line donation” tab or using Parish Pay.
- iv) Susan is spending about 7hr/week working on the website. She puts a lot of effort into deciding where to post the data—which shows in the good quality of the current website. Also, she is, in a way, “on call” when information needs to be posted on short notice. Volunteers to assist Susan are welcome to come forward. Joe, Amy, and Steve will contact local colleges to seek volunteers to assist Susan with IT needs.
- c) Witness Testimonies at mass: On the 5th Sunday of Lent we will arrange for testimonies on that week’s topic of the Ignatian “Examen.” Christi will speak at St. Joseph (perhaps with one of her boys). Joan Iannazzo will be contacted by Fr. Tom to speak at MQP Masses. (1-3/4 min.)
- d) Music—Parish youth recruitment. Shawn/Sue have brainstormed (5/2 min.)
 - i) No progress yet.
 - e) High-end projector donated from a university, thanks to Reggie Baika. Steve is looking into a good used 10’x12’ screen. Steve (1 min.)
- f) Ministry “Weekends”—is revised plan ready to present? Judi (5/3 min)
 - i) Diane Cormier has had a family commitment. The group will reconvene early March to revise the plan
 - ii) Can we have ministry people check out the website to see if we have done justice to their work? Judi will follow up with the group.

- g) Mercy Meal (et al) volunteer recognition in bulletin, etc? Shawn (1-5/4 min) It was agreed regular recognition should be afforded to volunteers in the bulletin and on our website.
- i) Tie this in with ministry weekends by putting into the bulletin information on the highlighted ministries. The Mercy Meal ministry, e.g., is relatively hidden, but should be better known. We could actually highlight ministries by putting something about them in the bulletin on a regular basis. Shawn will follow up with the Mercy Meal recognition.

5) New Business:

a) Subcommittee Reports

- i) #1: Community Coordinator/Welcoming Community. What can we hope to accomplish in the near future? Chris/Amy/Tina (15-30/18 min)
 - (1) Group identified 3 distinct groups with specific questions related to their feelings of welcoming – Existing Parishioners, Non-Parishioners, Ministry Volunteers
 - (2) Recommended consistency across both campuses relative to Mass Coordinators, Ushers, Greeters, Altar servers. Include their role(s) in welcoming. We want to establish at MQP the system of Mass coordinators that is working well at St. Joseph.
 - (3) Gluten free hosts – parish would be more welcoming if we could facilitate the reception of communion for those with a gluten intolerance (Celiac disease). Possibly trial “gluten free station” at one Mass.
 - (4) ACTION: Council members are asked to observe needs at various Masses, and share observations prior to next meeting.

ii) #2: Families/Young Adults. Includes Parents/Children/Youth/Young Adults. Needs and recommended methods for improvement. Christie/Joe/Kaitlyn. (15-30/20 min)

(1) Priorities identified as: Youth- grades 6-12, Young adults- 18-35, Young families-children 5th grade or younger. Deacon Jay suggested recognition of the 18-35 group encompasses two distinctly different groups of young adults.

(2) Youth – 5pm Mass with relative/powerful message to this group to avoid boredom. It was suggested to use these youth as ushers, greeters, collectors, Eucharistic ministers/Lectors post Confirmation. Music to be selected by Kyle. A discussion followed re Mass time – would a 6 or 6:30 time enable increased attendance?

(3) Young adults – identify social setting for learning, i.e. Theology on Tap. Is this age spread too diverse to combine? We are in need of direct input from this group.

(4) Young families – Children’s Liturgy of the Word is key and should be expanded year round. Availability of children’s brochures in pews, on entering church. Involve families as greeters, offering of gifts.

iii) ACTION: Sub-groups will refine their conclusions for the next meeting. Steve requested the group email him their preliminary refinements prior to the next meeting.

b) Theme Homily Evaluation. (5-10/15 min)

i) Give us a practical challenge

ii) Emphasize the joy that comes from acting on the theme (but don’t make people feel inadequate)

iii) Some homilists are more explicit about the theme than other. People who are not “clued in” to what we are doing do not always realize that we are presenting on a theme.

- iv) Homilists will try to connect their homilies explicitly to the theme, even if that is done in one or two sentences.
- v) Council members will consider if these homilies are actually helping the faith life of our church members. Our goal is, by the end of the theme, to inspire people to make the theme a part of their lives.

6) Closing Prayer 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Ryan