

St. Mark Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes October 23, 2014

Meeting Time: 7pm

Location: The Cenacle

Prayer Leader: Lindsey Fischer

Refreshments: Donna Kern

Scripture/Prayer

Lindsey Fischer

Roll Call – Approval of minutes

In attendance: Father Todd, Deacon Tom, Ann Berkemeier, Ben Briggeman, Carolyn Bundy, Lindsey Fischer, Dorothy Glass, Mary Ann Jacobs, Donna Kern, Chris Lafollette, and Don Toll. Also attending was Andy Swiezy representing SMAC.

Minutes of Sept. 25th received approval/second.

St. Mark Athletic Commission presentation – Andy Swiezy discussed SMAC’s efforts to involve more non-SMCS students in to the program. He also spoke about CYO, which has been active in Indianapolis for over 75 years and instills comradery, respect, health & fitness. The SMAC chair is appointed by Father as is the Athletic Director (Bob Jones). SMAC works closely with Rusty and the school as well as Kevin and Chris in the Parish office. There are over 30 teams in 20 sports with about 175 athletics and 65 plus coaches. There are some teams who are formed with other Parishes. Most programs are 4th grade and up, but younger kids participate in wrestling. The parish program’s success is indicated by number of winners of the spirit of youth award from CYO. Andy did mention that facilities or lack thereof was the only drawback to the program at St. Mark.

Revenue producers include the youth flag football program (over 200 kids) and a 4th grade basketball tournament held annually. They also hold a 50/50 raffle with a monthly drawing.

Committee Reports

Social Life – 27 people signed up for the trip to St. Meinrad, therefore they will open it up to 8th graders who might want to attend.

School Commission – Presented by Ben on behalf of Mickey Lentz – The Commission met on Oct 1st in the school. Academic scores and time spent on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) were discussed. It is a 3 year plan and done in concert with the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education. OCE will have an on-site visit to the school later in the fall. A discussion on the Chromebooks took place, they were obtained with Title II money, donations and budgeted funds. The Commission was looking at ways to let the school parents and parents of potential students as well as the whole parish and community know

about them. The Pastoral Council thought this would be good publicity and discussed suggestions on how to get the information out to school parents and parishioners.

The Commission decided that the Blue Ribbon certification process should wait. PR and marketing were also discussed. The Thank You Pancake Breakfast will be Nov 16th. The Commission will meet next on Nov. 12th. Catholic Schools Values celebration will be held Nov. 5th.

Finance Commission - Ben reported that the lag in collections has been reduced. The Commission discussed a possible presentation on Faith Direct.

The windows in the Narthex will start being replaced soon with work on the other windows taking place later.

Liturgy Committee – Deacon Tom indicated that the Committee was doing well and that they have welcomed a new member, Dr. Katie Harmon. A question was raised on watering the plants in Church. The Thanksgiving Day Mass was briefly discussed.

Youth Commission – Lindsey presented information from Julie Albertson. There will be no need to financially assist with those students attending the Indiana Catholic Youth conference (\$50 each with help at half had been suggested). The \$200 needed to assist eight students will be covered from budget. It will be 1st week of November at Marian University. Archbishop Tobin will celebrate the Mass.

Outreach – A discussion was held about the first annual Franks and Beads Rosary celebration. It was considered a great success with about 100 attending (during fall break). The International night celebration was also a great success (aided by the Sacred Heart reunion). The music and food were both fantastic making the Mass and reception very enjoyable.

The Ministry Fair was also discussed. One group that received a good deal of interest was HOOPs which may have enough new volunteers to do twice a month. The Funeral Meals group also obtained several new names.

There is consideration of staffing the MLC Welcome Desk again

Spiritual Life – Deacon Tom indicated that Sacramental Prep programs are going well and that the first three Sundays of Advent will host evening prayer/reflection services.

Communications – Lindsey reported that the News from the Pews group is working on converting it to an electronic version as was discussed previously.

Agenda

Ann coordinated **Thank You cards** for Ed & Sandy Balint for the blood drive; the Inclusion Committee for the International Night; Sister Circle & Men’s Club for Franks & Beads, Rosie Saylor for coordinating the Life Chain and an extra card or two.

Communications with/between Council & Commissions (and committees) – Lindsey distributed a sample letter and form to Commissions, Committees, etc. for completion by these entities. The letter starts with thanking them and the form gathers information on mission and goals as well as information on which other councils/commissions they interact with. The PC reviewed and discussed these and voiced approval. The information should help in establishing the Parish new 5 year plan (2015). Dorothy will work on a strategic map/flow chart document to show the relationship between these groups. The information will also be used to update the New Parishioner packet.

Connected in the Spirit – Father reported that there will be a meeting in Nov for the 3 Cohorts. A subcommittee has been meeting regarding Vocations and St. Mark and St. Roch will promote the monthly Vocation Prayer service at St. Barnabas. Also they are looking at promoting other vocations, specifically, single life and married life.

There will be a Mass count for the first two weekends of November. No plans to change, however the Archdiocese requires this.

Father indicated there are many opportunities for the cohorts to work together.

Ministry Fair Evaluation – Suggestion box had two questions, one on the availability of minutes of the PC (the fact they’re on the website will be publicized more). Another question was about the use of the funds over the goal on the school improvement project which Kevin discussed with the questioner. Will most likely do every 2 or 3 years.

Franks & Beads Evaluation – approx. 100 people enjoyed the activities and favorable weather. Plan to do annually, hopefully, with more attendance if not during Fall Break. It was discussed that the Knights of Columbus Rosary was made by Harold Mathews.

Catholic Coming Home - Father discussed that there will be an invitation again this year for those with questions to meet with Father and/or Deacon Tom. It was discussed that while there are “packaged” programs, that at this point St Mark does not use. Cathy Jolly volunteered to head a Committee to work on the Catholic Come Home project. Also, will

re-establish a dinner for new parishioners every few months. A question was asked if we have a Bereavement Committee, which we do, but they focus on correspondence in the period after the loss. The discussion moved to how to assist those needing additional assistance.

Upcoming Events – St. Meinrad Pilgrimage on Oct 25th; Joyful Sounds Bell Concert (a community group and they will be selling their Christmas CD), Oct. 26th; Holiday Craft Fair, Nov 8th (discussion about how to better get word out to potential vendors); Nov 15th, Bingo Bash (tickets on sale now) & Pancake Breakfast on Nov 16th.

Additional Pastor Comments – Father was very happy with Franks & Beads and thanked those involved including Sister Circle and Men’s Club and specific members who worked it.

Goods/Needs of the Parish – There has been some improvement in Mass attendance.

Reminders

Next Meeting – Dec. 4th in the Cenacle (November & December meeting)

Prayer Leader – Donna Kern

Refreshments – Kathy Pierce

Closing Prayer

Lindsey Fischer

