

SMM Pastoral/Finance Council Joint Meeting Minutes – February 16th, 2023

Present: Eleanor Healy, Pete Dulcamara, Greg Weyenberg, Terry Gant, Dan Bornemann, Brenton Teeling, Fr. Nonito Barra, Tony Geracie, Bill Bittner, Mike Lauers.

Absent: Andrew Braatz, Ellen Mommaerts, Holly Rhyner (has foregone her service on the council due to personal reasons), Melinda Cranwell (now out of state), most Finance Committee members were absent as well.

Meeting held in Friendship Hall

Handouts: Meeting agenda, Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Agenda items (Joint Meeting):

-Opened with Parish Meeting Prayer, Gospel Reading, Discussion and sharing (led by Eleanor Healy).

-November 15th Joint PC/FC meeting minutes approved.

Liturgy and Worship Update (Justin Krueger):

-Highlighted the Adult Choir – gave kudos to their efforts over the Christmas Liturgies.

-Youth Choir – Justin talked about the performance of our youth choir since September. Many members are now getting into bigger roles (cantoring, soloing).

--Helping forge further our focus on creating opportunities for the young parishioners to be more involved within the mass.

--Greater participation within SMM during Catholic Schools Week.

-Diocese does not suggest youth participation within the mass. Questioning of authority of scripture when being delivered out of the mouth of a young person.

-Detailing of the formation of a Diocesan liturgical musician group.

--Allows for greater collaboration to share ideas/resources from parish to parish to make the liturgy more vibrant and impactful through music and song.

-Increase in volunteers (15 new folks in different ministries)

--Desire for training, but that can be done once more volunteers are signed up.

-Justin shared that his song of farewell is in the process of being recorded and will be finished in the Spring.

-Discussed also finding balance with volunteer participation. Finding a groove or rhythm in not always having the same people do the same responsibilities at mass at the same time every week. Getting more participation so circulation and participation by others (new members) can take place.

-Mike Lauer asked how we go about identifying altar servers. Heavy promotion within SMM Grade School, and personal ask.

-Much of the training that we conduct for liturgical responsibilities is most done one-on-one.

-Justin also mentioned his plans to try and get a Men's Choir up and running starting in summer.

-Meet on Wednesday Evenings (months of June, July, and August).

Update from Faith Enrichment Committee (Anne Fredrickson)

-Anne is a 17-year member of SMM.

-Has been in Faith Enrichment for 10 years...in a leadership role for at least 5 years.

-Programs offered by Faith Enrichment Committee:

--Books and information to enrich faith (during the church year).

--Outdoor/Indoor Rosary.

--Prayers for Haiti.

--Prayers for the World.

--Prayers for loved ones (All Souls Day).

-Committee has around 9-10 members.

-Group works with other Parish committees and collaborates to drive their mission of enrichment in faith.

-Discussed the Diocesan maternity leave policies and the drafting of a letter to Bishop Ricken to create some change or flexibility to help new mothers along in adjusting their work/life balance in being a new parent.

--Mike Lauers suggested that Anne get in touch with other local parishes and create a more solidified effort on the maternity leave issues that they have inquired about.

-Detailing of the Entrust Retreat that took place in January of 2023. Potential to have that Retreat open to those who weren't able to attend the first time through. Entrust sign-up is located on the Green Bay Diocese website.

-Anne spoke about a 4-day retreat that was scheduled to take place in the first part of March at St. Patrick's in Menasha.

-Mike Lauer asked how promotion of the Faith Enrichment Committee...Anne detailed their efforts through hanging information at grocery stores, outreach at her place of work, discussion with others or acquaintances from previous relations.

--Potential to market through the radio (Relevant Radio), but that has to be significantly in advance.

-Eleanor Healy said that hearing what's going on at other parishes can build awareness and participation of these events through Faith Enrichment.

Formation of Safety Committee (Dan Bornemann & Brenton Teeling)

-Bill Wallingford joined the discussion on this topic as well.

-Discussion of Safety Plans within the church...spurred on by a seminar that detailed the safe handling of the building at SMM Parish.

-A full update of a Safety Plan

-Building and Grounds tried to take the ball initially, but there's not enough time for them to put the full attention that is required to safety within the building.

-The training seminar was highly recommended by Bill, Mark, Gary and other members who attended. Truly an eye-opening experience. Brought to light much of what SMM currently is lacking in regard to a safety plan that can operate the way it is designed to.

-Juanita discussed the special skill set of the people of the Safety Committee has to be more involved in a law-enforcement, medical personnel, first responders. Building and Grounds does not have that skill set to take responsibility.

-Terry Gant detailed a situation that took place at mass and mentioned how lucky we were to have medical professionals/first responders in attendance that night, otherwise one of our parishioners could've been in a very bad way.

-Other folks have shown interest in taking part in this committee that have mapping experience or high-level law enforcement experience (ex-FBI).

-Juanita also mentioned the "scammers" that tried to take advantage of our parishioners during a mass last year. A committee could've had eyes on that and may have been able to stop any harm prior to its beginning.

-Dan Bornemann through the Finance Council is their member to take part in the Safety Committee...a liaison between the Finance Council and the Safety Committee.

-Diocese has guided SMM to put a Safety Plan together...people need to be committed to this need and there's around 12 or so people who have showed interest in taking part. This will help us formulate the plan successfully.

-People who wanted to take part in the Safety Conference put on by the Diocese would be compensated by the Parish for their time in waiving the costs that came along with signing up for the conference.

Update on One-by-One Campaign (Bill Bittner)

-Details of One-by-One Campaign

- Involves all 156 parishes in Green Bay Diocese
- This is the final block (Block 5) – 25-35 parishes left to do their campaign.
- 50/50 split between Parish and Diocese.
- December 15th meeting:
 - First opportunity to meet Maddie Ackeridge (CCS Fundraising). Involved with bringing attention to providing a proven path to success in fundraising.
- January meeting:
 - Creation of the Parish Case for One-by-One.
 - Goal: \$1.33 million**
 - No issue if goal not met but would like to achieve the goal.
- February 1st meeting:
 - Top givers are main targets to join Campaign Leadership Committee.
 - Provide them with ammunition to want to have others join the cause.
 - Bishop Ricken in attendance.
 - Brought light to what the Diocesan case is for where this money is going within the Parishes involved.
- Next meeting after Feb. 1st meeting (no date provided):
 - Pete Dulcamara presented the case for SMM and their needs through the One-by-One Campaign.
 - Maddie presented what makes the campaign successful and the campaign plan.
 - Personal visits/personal ask is the desired way to handle inquiries.
 - Pledge support – formal pledge.
 - SMM case presented more of a 10-year horizon on pledges
 - Monetary pledges are over a 5-year period.
- Weekly meetings for the CLC team are on Thursdays at 5:30pm.
 - Lists provided by Diocese to reach out and check barometer of support for One-by-One.
 - 200 households to begin with on contact.
- Terry Gant asked when the end date is on the Campaign:
 - Bill mentioned that the end of the campaign will be in June.
- Eleanor Healy inquired about what we were doing with the funds:

-How is it decided?

--Parish planning process

--Parish Survey

--3 buckets of focus:

-Growing Faith (Maintenance & Facilities)

-Growing Fellowship (Increase welcoming, updating of facilities and amenities).

-Growing Outreach – properly funding committees and providing Mental Health support to our parishioners and further out in the community.

-Kept our goals broader as to what we were doing with the funding to make sure that there was flexibility once the funds were secured.

-Eleanor wants more focus on the Fellowship and Outreach moving forward, but a lot of what's done within the church hinges on the condition of the church itself (cosmetic and building maintenance).

Attention item: Raising awareness on multi-generational attitudes toward religion (Pete Dulcamara)

-Bill Wallingford, Pete Dulcamara, and Dan Bornemann attended at the Neenah Club.

Larry Lewis – Ex-Principal at NHS and Leadership positions at Marian University.

-Presentation on generations, backgrounds, and religion.

-Discussion of what role religion plays within all age groups over time as well as the “rise of the none’s”. None’s meaning no religious denomination or no religious dealings in the lives of our youth.

-Gen X, Y, and Z are those who are showing more non-denominational habits.

-All who attended felt that having Larry Lewis come give those two presentations to us at our committee meetings.

-Go through Roses, Thorns, and Buds to brainstorm for understanding.

-Goods, Bads, and Potential Growth areas.

-What can be done with the information that we gathered through our brainstorm.

-How can we stem the tide of the “rise of the none’s”?

-Bill Wallingford detailed how 60% of kids aren’t growing up with religion in their households.

-How do we attract people past the age of 18?

-SMM does quite a bit wrong to help solve this problem.

-We need to start engaging with these people and integrate generational differences into our programs at SMM.

-Dan Bornemann mentioned that finding the ability to learn, listen, and think the way that younger folks do...is something that we need to try and accept. It will be easier then to move forward together.

-Juanita mentioned that this opportunity for Larry Lewis to present would be a perfect chance to make this a 5 Parish thing.

-Bill mentioned this to Steve and he will be in attendance if Larry Lewis does come in and present to us.

-Pete mentioned also that a Diocesan member who specializes in these generational differences subject matter (Amy Ebert), is on board with coming in to attend the presentation as well.

-Pete will be taking the lead in organizing this potential presentation for a joint Council meeting in the near future.

Pastor Update (Fr. Nonito)

-Father Nonito detailed that he had logged eighteen calls for the One-by-One campaign thus far. All but one couple had said "yes."

- \$50,000 pledged thus far.

-Bishop's Appeal – started first weekend of February. Fifty percent of the goal has been reached as of this meeting. The goal is to achieve that monetary goal on Easter Sunday.

-Lenten Season starts this week.

-Confession

-Stations of the Cross (2PM)

-Evening Prayers (6:30PM)

-Fr. Nonito gave supplies to children in his hometown with money from the Human Concerns Committee. Around 312 kids in his community (school supplies, flip flops, chocolates, etc.).

-He also detailed some spending that he did to get new vestments for himself and Deacon Dan.

-Fr. Mike was the last to order any vestments.

Finance Council Update (Brenton Teeling)

-Strong Sacrificial Giving in December.

-Large cash gift was provided to the parish and Finance Council is going over determination of where to put those funds.

-Creation of a gift policy is being thought about and will be put together to provide guidelines on gifts such as this moving forward.

-Diocesan audit – GB Diocese will be conducting an audit at some point. More to come soon.

-Fundraising options? – Church Festival?

-Finance Council to try and provide liaisons to other committees within the parish.

-Shattuck Property – nothing really happening that is newsworthy.

-Parking discussion – will there be parking available if the property gets sold?

-What other options have been brought forth?

Candidates for PC and FC for next fiscal year

-Bill provided a spreadsheet detailing PC and FC participation.

-Holly and Melinda are no longer on the council due to personal reasons.

-All of us need to find a pipeline of people who can be engaged and ready to be productive members of the councils.

-Mike Lauers has done an excellent job of taking care of the “personal ask.”

-Bill has followed up with a potential new member that Mike had reached out to, Rod (not sure of last name).

-Bill has proposed that Rod be our newest member of the council. Will be coming to our next meeting on 4/18.

-Other candidates are in the pipeline...Todd Rice is another one that is showing potential to join either the SMC Board of Trustees or Parish Council.

-Maybe a list of folks who are involved within the SMC School system or at SMM who are on school committees that have that work ethic needed to be a contributing member of these councils.

Closing Prayer (Fr. Nonito)

-Glory Be

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tony Geracie.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th at 6:00PM in Friendship Hall.