

## **St Margaret Mary (SMM) Pastoral Council (PC) Minutes 10/12/2021**

Present: Fr. Dennis Bergsbaken, Holly Rhyner, Bill Bittner, Lance Ernsting, Pete Dulcamara, Greg Weyenberg, Eleanor Healy, Ellen Mommaerts, Andrew Braatz, Tony Geracie

Absent: Melinda Cranwell

Meeting held in Friendship Hall

Handouts: Meeting Agenda, Opening Prayer

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM

Opening Parish Meeting Prayer, Gospel Reading, Discussion and Sharing.

Approved September meeting minutes as submitted.

### St. Margaret Mary Strategic Planning Update

Had an initial meeting on September 25, 2021. In attendance were Patti Purcell, Pete Dulcamara, Fr. Dennis, Jason Richter and Lance Ernsting. A follow-up meeting is going to be held on October 16, 2021. The team is preparing a SWOT analysis for the parish (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats). A lot of data was discussed during the first meeting. This included sacramental trends, attendance at mass and sacrificial giving. Members shared parish expectations and key takeaways from the trends. Pete Dulcamara said the parish planning process will serve as valuable input for the upcoming One-By-One Campaign that we want to apply for. Eleanor Healy expressed a concern that this may be a redundant effort. We have already completed our parish mission planning process. She was not sure where the parish is going with this new strategic planning process. Pete Dulcamara responded that the strategic plan documents who is going to do what by when to bring our mission to life. What is the timeline and what resources do we need to succeed? Pete felt going through this process will help build a compelling case as to what we need from the One-By-One Campaign. He summarized by stating that the Parish Mission Planning output should guide our decision making on how to execute an action plan that has accountability, a timeline to follow and resources to achieve it. Eleanor Healy commented that it will be very important for this team to keep the PC updated on its progress. Fr. Dennis feels strongly we need to keep the PC and Finance Committee updated after each of these meetings.

### What is the One-By-One-Campaign?

This is a fundraising campaign initiated by the Green Bay Diocese designed to raise funds for both the diocese as well as individual parishes. The money that gets raised by each parish gets split 50/50 with the diocese. Funds raised by the parish can go towards maintaining facilities and to support the services it provides. Fr. Dennis indicated that initially, the One-By-One Campaign was designed to expand the ministries of parishes and not go towards facilities. What has happened is that more needs have surfaced to improve facilities, because of COVID. Fr. Dennis believes SMM's One-By-One Campaign will begin in January 2022. The contributions going to the diocese will be invested in endowment funds that eventually will come back to the parishes in the long-term. This campaign is incremental to the Bishops Appeal which supports operational costs for the ministries of the diocese.

## Action item from prior meeting - Brainstorm ideas and things we can do to bring more people back to church

Lance Ernsting kicked off this session by listing 4 of the most popular reasons as to why people go to church:

- To feel closer to God
- To provide children with a moral foundation
- To become a better person
- To find comfort in times of trouble

Lance then shared the 7 most common reasons why people don't attend church:

- They practice their faith in other ways
- They don't have time because of other family responsibilities
- They don't feel welcomed
- They haven't found a church that they like
- Physically moved away from their home and haven't joined a different church
- Fellow Christians are judgmental or hypocritical
- They were never Christians in the first place; they went to church but never believed

Bill Bittner created a separate document that captures all the ideas presented during the brainstorming session. This will be delivered to each PC member. Prior to next meeting, please make sure the idea was accurately captured and feel free to add any comments regarding the idea.

### Pastor Update:

- Fr. Dennis thanked everyone for their contribution to the brainstorming exercise. Almost all of our ideas support the parish mission planning goals.
- Mailings tracking parishioner sacrificial giving vs what was pledged will be going out in October as well as a Christmas letter/card in December from the parish.

### Thank you Notes

Pete Dulcamara and Lance Ernsting are willing to write thank you cards to our parish volunteers this year. Bill Bittner agreed to consult with Beckett Mathews and compile a list of volunteers and eliminate the duplicate records that we can use.

### AYAF Items

- Wine and Cheese Party after 5 pm mass on November 13th in Friendship Hall
- Afghan refugee collection being done by all parishes and schools in our area through October
- Afghans for Afghans - a plan is in place with various components

### Action Items:

- Recap October 16 Strategic Planning Meeting and put on agenda for November PC Meeting - **Lance Ernsting**
- Send documentation from Parish Mission Planning to PC members - **Ellen Mommaerts**
- **Bill Bittner** to work with Parish Staff in compiling a list of names and address to write thank you cards. Delivery targeted around Thanksgiving.

- Review items from brainstorming exercise and make sure your ideas are accurately captured in the document. Also feel free to add any comments regarding the idea in the last column of the document. **All PC members**

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Next meeting scheduled on Tuesday, November 9th at 6:00 PM in Friendship Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Bittner