

St. Margaret Mary (SMM) Joint Pastoral Council and Finance Council Meeting Minutes

(September 21st, 2023)

Present: Pete Dulcamara, Andrea Atanasoff, Malorie Fuchs, Greg Weyenberg, Terry Gant, Dan Bornemann, Fr. Nonito Barra, Bill Bittner, Mike Lauer, Marianne Sterr, Juanita Harder, Ellen Mommaerts, Andrew Braatz.

Absent: Rod Gauvin, Dan Hamrin, Tony Geracie, Eleanor Healy, Lynn Detterman, Brenton Teeling, Matt Follen, Jeff Berg

Meeting held in Friendship Hall

Handouts: Meeting agenda, Opening Prayer, one By One Campaign handout, Parish Picnic Report, Multi-Generational Invitation, PC, FC & Trustee Workshop Schedule

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

Agenda items (Joint Meeting):

- Opened with Parish Meeting Prayer, Gospel Reading, Discussion and sharing (led by Dan McKenna).
- Introduction of new PC members - Andrea Atanasoff and Malorie Fuchs

President's Report from St. Mary Catholic School System - Dan McKenna President of SMCS:

- Dan provided an overview of SMCS to the Joint Council. Topics included school enrollment and actions that are being taken for the school and 5 Neenah/Menasha parishes to work more closely together. Dan meets monthly with the 4 Pastoral Leaders of the 5 parishes. Steve Pable has played an important role in building cohesion between the school and parishes.
- Increased culture wars in the public schools and accommodating in-person classes during COVID-19 has helped to increase enrollment at SMCS. About 1 in 4 students in the system are enrolled in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program.
- Why are Non-Catholic families enrolling in SMCS?: Parents want their children to have a moral compass (most are predominantly Christian), SMCS has a good record of academic excellence, great facilities, with smaller class sizes and the responsiveness of staff and teachers when parents make inquiries.
- Action Item: Dan McKenna suggested that a group with representation from both SMM and SMCS Staff meet to brainstorm how we can better engage families to become active members of the parish. This team would be led by Kathleen McCurdy, Director of Advancement for SMCS. Dan McKenna and Bill Bittner will take the lead on this.

Approval of minutes from June 13th, 2023 Joint PC/FC Meeting Metzentine

- Bill Bittner made a motion that we approve the minutes from the Joint PC/FC Meeting on June 13th
- Motion was 2nd by Greg Weyenberg. All present voted in favor to approve motion.

Review of Parish Pastoral and Finance Council Policies - Bill Bittner

- Bill Bittner briefly highlighted some sections of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council Policy Manuals published by the Green Bay Diocese and asked that all members take the time to review the contents.

Volunteer to serve as Secretary of Joint PC/FC Meetings for 2023/24 Fiscal Year

- Andrea Atanasoff volunteered to serve as Secretary for the current term. Thank you Andrea!

Presentation of one By One Campaign Project List and Next Steps - Pete Dulcamara

- Pete reviewed a process that the Trustees, Council Chairs and Staff followed to develop a prioritized project list of items that could be funded by the one By One Campaign.
- The next step is for the members of both councils to review and endorse the priorities that were listed.
- A one By One Committee, made up of 2 Trustees, 2 Council Chairs and Juanita Harder will meet with some cadence to constantly review priorities, provide encouragement that projects are completed on time and request funding for projects from the Diocese.
- What we agreed with Fr. Nonito is that the parish will only spend one By One funds that have been paid, not pledged. These figures will be shared with our parishioners to provide transparency throughout this process.
- We reviewed the Primary Resource and Support Resource for each prioritized item on the project list. The following actions and/or changes were made:
 - Replace carpet and chairs in Friendship Hall: Primary Resource: Terry Gant said he would co-chair. Still need someone else to work with Terry.
 - Electronic signage on Washington & Division: Pete Dulcamara will ask Bill Wallingford if he would be the Primary Resource.
 - Date night for parents: Malorie Fuchs agreed to be Primary Resource
 - Improve post-sacramental touch points: Need to recruit a Primary Resource
 - Roof replacement and parking lot repair: Pete Dulcamara will ask Bill Wallingford if he would be the Primary Resource.
 - Women's Christmas coffee with guest speakers: Bill Bittner will ask Eleanor Healy if she would be the Primary Resource.
 - Welcome and onboard parishioners: We agreed to make this something we should be working on over the next 12 months.
 - Ten passenger van for parish staff and activities: Terry Gant agreed to be Primary Resource
 - Enhance youth programming: Andrea Atanasoff agreed to be Primary Resource
 - Bathroom resources for families; e.g.,diapers & wipes, etc.: Malorie Fuchs agreed to be Primary Resource
 - Dream Speaker: Justin Krueger to be Support Resource instead of Ellen Mommaerts
 - Mental health services for youth and adults: Ellen Mommaerts to be Support Resource instead of Justin Krueger. Ellen will recruit a Primary Resource from the parish.
 - Create "zero-entry" or better accessibility into church: We agreed to make this something we should be working on over the next 12 months.
 - Upgrade gathering space, including audio/video in gathering space: Mike Lauer will add streaming of weekend mass as part of the scope of this project.
- Pete Dulcamara suggested we work diligently on this list of items and the one By One Committee will review progress and add new projects as resources become available.

- Bill Bittner requested we include additional handicapped parking as part of better accessibility into church.
- Dan Bornemann requested that we explore the opportunity to share a 10 passenger van with other parishes due acquisition and on-going costs associated with this purchase.

Recap of August 6th Parish Festival - Marianne Sterr

- Marianne Sterr provided a financial update on what the parish made from the August 6th Parish Festival (\$9,416). She also summarized feedback received on how we can make this better in the future. It is our intent to make this an annual event but more volunteers will be needed for future events.

Pastor Update - Fr. Nonito

- Fr. Nonito encouraged everyone present to sign up for one of the scheduled Trustee and Council Member Workshops put on by the Green Bay Diocese in September and October.
- Fr. Nonito's priorities this fiscal year are as follows: reaching out to the older members of the community, many who are confined to their residence, and provide the sacraments of the Eucharist, confession and anointing of the sick. Fr. Nonito is also devoting more time to participating in outreach programs of the parish. Finally, he is trying to spend more time with our youth, whether in school classrooms, serving lunch at school or participating in religious education programs.
- His focus is for all of these groups to have a greater love of the sacraments.
- Bill Bittner asked if Fr. Nonito would be receptive having families of the parish sign up to have him over for dinner in their home? He said yes and Bill Bittner will take the lead to implement this.

Understand Multi-Generational Attitudes Toward Religion Workshop- Pete Dulcamara

- Pete promoted the upcoming workshop on Understanding Multi-Generational Attitudes Towards Religion to be held on Saturday, October 21st, 2023 from 8:00am until noon in the Wisconsin Room of the Best Western Premier Bridgewood Resort Hotel.
- The seminar will be presented and facilitated by Larry Lewis, a leading expert on multi-generational attitudes toward religion. We will learn about the different generations and their attitudes toward religion and what we can do as a parish to attract and retain a vibrant parish community.
- At the meeting we will develop a list of prioritized recommendations that can be endorsed by the councils and approved by Father Nonito for implementation.
- Please RSVP by October 14th to the parish office (920-729- 4560) or to Pete Dulcamara.

Thank you notes for one By One Campaign and Sacrificial Giving /Volunteer Notes before Thanksgiving

- We agreed to write personal hand written notes to all one By One Campaign donors and volunteers (approximately 200 households) Bill Bittner will coordinate effort
- We agreed to generate a pre-printed template thank you card to arrive the week before Thanksgiving and include a list of scheduled Advent and Christmas activities. Need a staff member to help coordinate.

Meeting of Neenah/Menasha Parish Trustees - Dan Bornemann

- Recently had a 3rd Joint Trustee Meeting with all 5 Neenah/Menasha parishes
- Focus has been how do we work together for spiritual and financial alignment?
- Action item for next meeting is to come back with 3 different ideas on how we can collaborate
- The biggest positive is that there is a sense of trust building amongst all 5 parishes.

Entered into Executive Session at 8:45 PM and exited at 8:55 PM

Closing prayer by Fr. Nonito

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Bittner

Next Joint PC/FC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 16th, 2023 at 6:00PM in Friendship Hall.