

St. Margaret Mary Pastoral Council Meeting

Date: March 29, 2023

Attendance: Fr. Arpee, Fr. Greg, Deacon René, Bruce Coughlan, Christina Mines, Rose Del Grosso, Mary Luciani, Marilyn Sturtevant, Sarah Mandarano, Mario Salvatore, Kim Drotar, Edna Moreno

1. Youth Ministry
 - Nicole McCowell (Hamilton Diocese Director of Youth Ministry) facilitated this portion of the meeting.
 - Current State of Accompaniment of Young People questionnaire was distributed as to the current state of youth ministry in our parish:
 - o The following are ongoing: Children's Sunday Liturgy; classroom visitations by our priests; altar serving of young kids.
 - o Notable improvements have been seen with young families going to church; increase in young adult presence in the church in the last 6 months.
 - o Suggestions and discussions for Youth Ministry to thrive:
 - a) Post Confirmation follow-up: invest time starting with Gr.7-12.
 - b) Opportunities to read at Masses; involvement in volunteer work; church involvement as option.
 - c) Possibility of hiring part time Youth Minister.
 - d) Gather current list of young people: e.g. Confirmandi
 - e) Budget for food anytime youth are gathered.
 - f) Prioritize personal conversations with youth to understand their needs, and ensure parish follows through with programming.
2. Parish directory rejected for now.
3. Council encouraged to attend post-Easter Vigil reception for RCIA members.
4. Divine Mercy Sunday activities
 - Fr. Arpee to discuss with Evelyn Suva.
5. Discussing time and term limits for volunteers
 - Fr. Arpee to review different parish ministries, commitments, and expectations, and meet with volunteers.
6. Lost and Found articles
 - Currently kept beside the Reconciliation Room.
 - Spread out in Hearth Room once a month, with announcements verbally and in weekly bulletin.
7. St. Margaret Mary Parish Outreach Program (previously St. Vincent de Paul)
 - Fr. Greg and Bruce Coughlin followed up with one of the Program Co-ordinators, Denise McConnell.
 - The Outreach Committee works hand-in-hand with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
 - The Program continues to run and is in need of support through donations.
 - They are requesting organized volunteers at special times (like Christmas) to help distribute donations and gift cards.
 - They plan to submit a write-up about this program, its resources, and its need for more community support.
8. Holiday Monday receptions
 - Marilyn to review current list of hosts for holiday Monday receptions and approach groups to volunteer (e.g. lectors, women's group).
9. Other updates:
 - Parish Council minutes posted on website and bulletin board.
 - Snow removal to be discussed by clergy and looked into for next winter.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 26 following the 7 PM Mass