

St. Margaret Mary Pastoral Council Meeting

Date: May 30, 2024

Attendance: Fr. Adam, Deacon René, Seminarian Giuseppe Njualem, Bruce Coughlan, Rose Del Grosso, Sarah Mandarano, Mario Salvatore, Marilyn Sturtevant, Rachel McNamara (guest), Mary Mwalwanda (guest)

1. Youth Ministry discussion & updates – Guest speaker: Rachel McNamara (Director for Youth Ministry for Hamilton Diocese)
 - a. Recommendations based on previous conversations
 - Begin having conversations with confirmandi, then other youth (sent out survey last year)
 - Need to follow through with youth's suggestions
 - Full-time position recommended for the sake of devotion to the role and availability during the day, especially to schools
 - Might be easier to start with younger children and then build into youth ministry once relationships are established
 - Need to have volunteer support group for youth minister when they start
 - b. Questions
 - Is it best to hire someone from our parish? How would we find people?
 - Diocese advertises job postings through social media, updates, etc.
 - How many paid youth ministers are there in the diocese?
 - Fewer than 7 youth ministers, more pastoral ministers (their roles have expanded)
 - In the Hamilton Deanery, St. Francis Xavier, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Patrick's have youth ministers
 - How many parishes in the diocese have youth ministry activities?
 - About 20; 5-7 new ones this year (many run by volunteers)
 - What if we hire a youth minister and don't get any youth?
 - It can be a contract position, does not have to be permanent
 - Since we have 3 elementary schools, we shouldn't have trouble finding youth
 - What are the qualifications?
 - Some have Masters or Bachelors degrees in Religious Ed, etc.
 - Diocese offers Youth Ministry Certification
 - c. Next steps
 - Connect with Diocese about job posting, salary, etc.
 - d. For reference
 - Current job posting: <https://hamiltondiocese.bamboohr.com/careers/222>
2. Welcome our Summer Seminarian, Giuseppe Njualem
 - a. Here with us until end of August

3. Debrief of Holy Week and Easter
 - a. Deacon René to contain candles better for altar servers
 - b. Altar of Repose blocking exit
 - Could have been moved easily if needed
 - Preferred to have it in the church; more reverent, more people stayed
 - c. Time change for Easter Vigil (from 8 to 7 PM)
 - Better for the volunteers who cook and clean for the reception
 - Optimal since we have a long Mass (maximum number of readings, lots of baptisms and confirmations, etc.)

4. Corpus Christi Procession – June 2, 2024 after the 11 AM Mass
 - a. Discussion about whether procession should be outdoor or indoor
 - b. Fr. Adam discerned that outdoor procession is more beneficial for our community
 - c. Future: Baptisms should not be scheduled on Corpus Christi
 - d. All Parish organizations and elementary schools (specifically First Communion children) have been invited
 - e. CWL and KofC can bring their banners
 - f. Reception to follow, parishioners to contribute
 - g. Hope for the outdoor procession to grow year after year

5. Anointing of the Sick Mass – June 15, 2024 at 11 AM
 - a. Good opportunity for many homebound parishioners to come to church
 - b. Open to those with emotional/mental/spiritual illnesses, as well as physical (but all need to register so they can be identified to be anointed)
 - Fr. Adam to clarify in bulletin
 - c. Parishioners to volunteer to make sandwiches and baked goods
 - d. KofC to assist with parking
 - e. Future possibility: can sit in every other pew, and those who desire anointing can reach out their hands; removes need for registration and boutonnières

6. School Liturgies
 - a. Fr. Adam, Marilyn, and Mary Mwalwanda have met with principals to plan out next year's liturgies (Confirmation, First Communion, Ash Wednesday, May Crowning, Graduation Mass, etc.)
 - b. Plan for school-wide confessions twice in the next school year
 - c. Fr. Adam has visited schools on Fridays and schools really enjoy his visits
 - d. More young families have been coming to Mass, more altar servers trained

7. Update on possibility of producing our own bulletins
 - a. We have received one response to bulletin announcement calling for help
 - b. Seminarian Giuseppe able to help with this project
 - c. Advertising

- Need to find out when current advertisers' contracts end and any legal issues with asking businesses who currently advertise
 - Check with legal department at Chancery
- d. Next steps:
 - Call for volunteers, including people to get advertisers, do legal side, etc.
 - Think of parishioners we can invite to form committee
 - Start collecting email addresses for future digital bulletins
- 8. Donations box
 - a. Can go in the wall where the offerings for the books go
- 9. Lost and found box
 - a. Implement monthly claiming of items
- 10. No longer getting Word Among Us and Living Faith booklets because we get Living with Christ missalettes now
- 11. Future of Parish Council
 - a. Fr. Adam able to appoint new members to begin in September
 - b. For now, we will retain this group to transition into new pastoral year

Next meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7 PM