

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
December 4, 2007**

Members Present: Tom Cordaro, Molly Fara, Linda Griffin, Don Helgeson, Fr. Paul Hottinger, Terry Kerr, Jim Krema, Pat McAuliffe, Rick Peterson, Mike Prus, Barbara Ryan, Gary Skarr, Paul Weinewuth

Members Absent: None

(Unscheduled) Presenter: Frank Stock (Lisle-Woodridge Knights of Columbus)

Jim Krema, Pastoral Council President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Terry Kerr led the opening prayer and shared Scripture, along with guiding subsequent reflections on this.

Announcements and Approval of November Minutes:

The Pastoral Council approved the minutes (Draft A with edits) from 11/06/07, with Gary Skarr moving, Linda Griffin seconding, and the Council unanimously approving these.

Newcomers Reception: Rick Peterson, Pastoral Council Vice-President, reported on the Newcomers Reception that was held on 11/15/07. He noted that it appeared to be very well received by those in attendance. The 12-15 newcomer attendees (including parents with children) had asked good questions, also indicating their positive interest in becoming involved with other parish activities. Fr. Paul, along with several Pastoral Council members, had also attended this reception. Meanwhile, Rick also stated that the Newcomers Committee will meet again in January in order to help plan the format for the parish's newcomers' welcoming efforts in 2008.

(Unscheduled) Knights of Columbus (K. of C.) Presentation: Frank Stock, a local district deputy of the Lisle-Woodridge Knights of Columbus, presented to the Pastoral Council about the Knights of Columbus. With the Knights of Columbus being the largest international Catholic men's fraternal organization, Frank requested that our parish consider starting a new council, with his helping guide it during its initial year(s). He also noted that a new council would need a minimum of thirty dues-paying members for start-up, with local Knights of Columbus councils already existing at St. Raphael, SS Peter and Paul, St. Elizabeth Seton, and St. Joan of Arc Parishes. The Pastoral Council then requested that Frank Stock furnish additional literature and communicate more about this to both Fr. Paul and to Jim Krema at a future date, with the information then being reviewed at another Pastoral Council meeting. In addition, the Council expressed the need to also discuss this with the parish Men's Club. Further

information about the Knights of Columbus can be obtained at www.illinoisknights.org and at www.kofc.org Following this presentation, Frank Stock was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

Parish Appreciation Night: Pat McAuliffe reported on the committee's plans that currently are in progress for this upcoming event, which is scheduled for the evening of 1/19/08 (Saturday) in SMMP's Parish Center. It will also use a format that is very similar to last year's event. With set-up being planned for 1/18/08 during the daytime, the Appreciation Night will feature finger foods (appetizers and desserts), beer and wine (furnished by the Men's Club), and musical entertainment (by many talented musicians in the Contemporary Choir). Due to fire code restrictions, attendance will be limited to 250 and will also include the use of some rented bistro tables, which should allow for more movement by attendees (rather than just having a table and chairs set-up). Committee member Barb Ryan also noted that last year's Appreciation Night expenses came in somewhat below the budgeted \$5,000 (including a \$350 gift to the Contemporary Choir and \$750 for rentals, including lighting). It was also noted that there was a significant savings in only having this event on one night, as compared to when it had been previously held as a catered sit-down dinner offered on two separate Saturday nights. In addition, committee member Gary Skarr suggested having parishioners submit their reservations electronically – this response format will be explored further.

Sr. Madelyn's 25th Anniversary Recognition: Barb Ryan stated that this is now scheduled for 4/13/08 (Sunday), with plans to incorporate recognition of Sr. Madelyn at one of the Masses that day. Planning will continue for this, along with the committee's contacting Deacon Terry Taylor.

Third Annual World Peace Day Interfaith Prayer Service: Tom Cordaro, Justice/Outreach Minister, requested that SMMP be a co-sponsor of the Third Annual World Peace Day Interfaith Prayer Service. This Prayer Service will be held on 1/01/08 at First Congregational Church in Naperville and will include sacred Scripture readings, prayers, and music from various faith groups. Tom asked SMMP, as a co-sponsor, to cover printing costs for this Prayer Service. Tom estimated that there will be 120 attendees.

The Parish Council approved St. Margaret Mary Parish's being listed as a co-sponsor for the Third Annual World Peace Day Interfaith Prayer Service to be held at First Congregational Church, Naperville, with Pat McAuliffe moving, Molly Fara seconding, and the Council unanimously approving this.

The Pastoral Council then took a 10-minute break, beginning at 7:55 p.m.

Parish Time Capsule for New Building Addition: Mike Prus, Parish Business Manager, noted that the copper box (18"x12"x6") for this time capsule has still not been received from the manufacturer. Thus, there is still some additional time for more parish-related items to be submitted for inclusion in this. Some items that have already been submitted include a roster of the Parish Council, along with a c.d. and photos of the Men's Club.

New Business/Scheduling:

- **Town Hall Meeting:** The Council voted on three possible dates (4/23, 4/24, and 4/29) that were provided by Mike Prus for a Parish Town Hall Meeting, with the Council's selecting 4/29/08 (Tuesday) for this. Possible topics for discussion include parish economics and SMMP's becoming a host-site for PADS.
- **Blessing and Dedication of New Parish Addition:** While Mike Prus indicated that the builder is currently indicating a 2/28/08 completion date for the new parish addition, the Council felt that it should also anticipate some possible future delays. The Council also suggested waiting until after Easter for scheduling this blessing and dedication of the new parish addition. It was also suggested that a springtime date would better allow for the new addition's being somewhat more furnished. Rick Peterson, who was on the Groundbreaking Ceremony Committee, stated that there will be a team meeting about this in early January.
- **Temporary Re-opening of Church Main Entrance for Christmas Eve/Day:** Mike Prus stated that the builder hoped to temporarily re-open the church main entrance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, although this would be closed again shortly afterwards for safety reasons.
- **Review of Commission Report Format at Pastoral Council Meetings:** Don Helgeson recommended that commission reports, electronically sent In advance, should not be re-read by commission representatives at Pastoral Council meetings. The Council agreed that commission representatives should instead provide brief summaries of these, focusing on one or two main points and their highlights for possible Council discussion.

Commission Reports:

Administration: Molly Fara, Administration Commission Representative, stated that there was no commission meeting held last month, although it will meet in January. One item that they will be discussing is PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter).

Education: Linda Griffin, Christian Education Commission (CEC)

Representative, referred the Pastoral Council to previously distributed commission minutes (dated 11/08/08). She also noted that Confirmation is now scheduled for 5/1/07 (Thursday), with rehearsal on 4/27 (Sunday).

Service: Pat McAuliffe, Christian Service Commission (CSC)
Chairperson, referred the Pastoral Council to previously distributed commission minutes (dated 11/1/07). The commission will again be meeting in February. Pat also discussed the need to find out about how Project Gabriel fits in within the Christian Service Commission and Project Life, with its possibly also remaining separate from these. She also stated the need for Project Gabriel representatives to first talk with the Christian Service Commission and then to the Pastoral Council about its efforts within the parish.

Worship: Don Helgeson, Christian Worship Commission (CWC)
Representative, referred the Pastoral Council to previously distributed commission minutes (dated 11/13/07). He noted the need for additional lectors, along with their targeting high school sophomores currently in the Quest Program to consider becoming Eucharistic Ministers. Some additional discussion continued about gift bearer families no longer being scheduled in advance, with one idea offered about inviting new families to bring up the offertory gifts. Jim Krema also asked Don Helgeson to inquire as to why gift bearer families are no longer being scheduled for specific weekend Masses.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Paul stated that he has received a few positive reactions to his recent talk to the parish, along with only one response to his recent letter. He especially noted that Christmas should be a time of welcoming and healing.

Other:

- The Council will check with the teens to find out what one or two items they would most like to present about their current involvement or needs.
- Pastoral Council members are reminded to contact the Naperville City Council to urge their taking action to support the 1997 Parental Notice of Abortion Act.
- The importance of Pastoral Council members' having more representation at Hospitality Sunday's (and other parish events) was stressed, along with a reminder given for members to wear their nametags at these.
- The committee that will be investigating SMMP's possible involvement with DuPage United (see 11/06/07 Pastoral Council minutes) will report back to the Pastoral Council on their findings in March 2007.

Final “Whip Around”: Comments included: “great meeting; good meeting; continue discernment of needs; nice and brief meeting.”

Closing: Terry Kerr led the closing prayer, with the meeting then ending at 8:45 p.m. Molly Fara was thanked for providing tonight’s refreshments.

The next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 2, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Parishioners are invited to provide input to the Pastoral Council either by attending the monthly meeting [usually] held on the first Tuesday of the month in Room 8 at 7:00 p.m. (contact Jim Crema if you would like to address the Council) or by contacting any member of the Council to provide informal comments.

January Opening & Closing Prayer/Guided Reflection on Scripture:
Gary Skarr
January Refreshments: Linda Griffin

OPEN Action Items

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Gary Skarr, Pat McAuliffe, Barb Ryan	10/2/07	Plan Parish Appreciation Event.	1/19/2008
Gary Skarr, Pat McAuliffe, Barb Ryan	11/6/07	Investigate SMMP involvement with DuPage United	3/4/2008
Gary Skarr, Linda Griffin	11/6/07	Develop a Parish wide fund raising policy for approval by PPC	3/4/2008
Don Helgeson	12/4/07	Determine reasons that family gift bearer program has ended.	1/2/2008
Pat McAuliffe	12/4/07	Discuss with Christian Service Commission the organizational inclusion of Project Gabriel.	2/5/2008
Jim Crema	12/4/07	Follow-up with Men’s club regarding Knights of Columbus presentation	1/2/2008
Barb Ryan, Terry Kerr	12/4/07	Planning of Sr. Madelyn’s 25 th recognition event	4/13/2008

Respectfully submitted,

Marlyn Ligner Steury
Recording Secretary