

**St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Minutes for Meeting that took place on Thursday, March 7, 2019**

Elected Members in Attendance: Kevin Sims, Denise Blum, Kelly Hartwig, Mary Hummeldorf, Bill Keuper, Margie King, Debbie Klein
Elected Members Not Present: Pam Vehr **Ex Officio Members in Attendance:** Fr. Gardner, Jenni Petrey
Ex Officio Not Present: Wilma McGlasson **Recording Secretary:** Janice Stentz

Opening Prayer

February minutes: Approved

Fr. Gardner's Report

In the parish

- Since the last meeting, there were two funeral liturgies for Valentina Macoritto and Richard Niehoff.
- The winter Casino Night which took place on Mar. 2 was a great success with great attendance. Fr. Jerry thanks all for their support of the event, and also extended the parish's thanks to Jenni Petrey and Bill Johansing who oversaw this undertaking, along with many others in supportive roles.
- Lent begins: The parish Mardi Gras potluck took place on Mar. 5 with low attendance, however those who did participate enjoyed the meal and time together. The Ash Wednesday liturgies were well attended for our parish with involvement in our ministries. Fr. Jerry thanks everyone who helped with these events.

In the Archdiocese:

The 2019 CMA has been underway since Commitment Weekend on Feb. 3. Parish results as of Mar. 5, 2019: out of 671 parish households there have been 81 pledges toward our goal of \$12,964 in the amount of \$9,207.00 with \$6,938.50 of those pledges having been received already. The pledged amount represent 71% toward our goal, with 12% of parish households participating.

St. Margaret Mary Parish and Assumption Parish Pastoral Region:

With Lent beginning on March 6, the announced schedule of Lenten activities at St.MM is: on certain Tuesday evenings, Way of Cross at 7 p.m. (Mar. 12, 26 & Apr. 9); the Light is On For You will be the evening of Tues., Mar. 19 from 7-9 p.m.; the Pastoral Region Lent Penance Service will be on Tues., Apr. 2 at St.MM, and Thursday weekday Masses will be in the evening at 7 p.m. instead of mornings on Mar. 14, 21, 28, Apr. 4, & 11. The sign up sheet for the Holy Week liturgies ministry needs will be posted in the sacristy beginning the second Sunday of Lent, Mar. 16/17.

O.L.G. School:

- Fr. Jerry presided at the school liturgy Feb. 19 and next scheduled for Tues., Mar. 12.
- Open Enrollment for non-students has begun. This means that any current students that have not already re-enrolled for the 2019-20 school year could risk being placed on a waiting list if their class is full when they do register. Any parents considering sending their children to OLG should contact the parish office to learn about possible financial assistance options available for our parish students.

Faith Formation Director's Report – provided by Wilma

NOTE: *Unless otherwise stated, questions or requests for additional information for any of the Faith Formation activities mentioned below should be directed to the parish Faith Formation Director, Wilma McGlasson, 729-0222 or email wmcglasson@fuse.net.*

- **Confirmation Preparation:** St. MM is working with Assumption Parish in planning, organizing and celebrating this sacrament next week at the Cathedral on Wed., Mar. 13 at 7 p.m. Bishop Binzer will preside. St. MM and Assumption each have three candidates for Confirmation. St. MM's newly confirmed will be introduced to the parish with a reception on Sun., Mar. 17 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Holy Family Room.
- **First Communion Preparation:** There is one First Communicant preparing to receive this Sacrament on Sat., May 4 at the 4:30 p.m. Mass.
- **Scripture Study:** The attendance at the Tuesday morning study has been small but a very good group. Members voted to change the meeting time to 11 a.m. Still looking forward to a return of the "regulars" once the weather gets nice again.
- **Dynamic Catholic Book Club:** The group continues to meet every 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC. They are currently reading the book *The Cost of Compassion*, which they will complete this month. Next meeting is Tues., Mar. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 20 of the PAC. New members are most welcome.
- **The Mardi Gras potluck** with a burning of the palm afterwards was enjoyed by all who attended. The cold weather likely kept some folks at home. The food and companionship were outstanding.
- **Easter Dinner Collection:** The food drive will begin on the weekend of Mar. 16/17. Decorated bags will be provided in the HFR with a list of recommended food items to be purchased to fill the bags before returning them to the HFR by Sun., Apr. 7. The returned bags will be delivered the next day to Valley Interfaith Food & Clothing in Lockland for distribution to the homeless and needy they minister to.
- **Ash Wednesday Outreach:** On Mar. 6, Bill Keuper and Wilma McGlasson visited Clovernook Health Center. Bill presided at a Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service with distribution of ashes and then they visited all three floors of the Health Center to offer ashes to the residents and staff.
- **The Lamb's Supper:** The Faith Formation Team and Dynamic Catholic Book Club have teamed up to offer some opportunities for reflection during Lent on the book *The Lamb's Supper* written by Scott Hahn. Those interested in participating will gather on three Sundays during Lent, after 10:30 a.m. Mass in Rm. 21. The dates are Mar. 24, 31 & Apr. 7. More information is on the flyer in Mar. 3 bulletin, or contact Wilma McGlasson.

Communications Commission (CC): Janice Stentz reported

The timeline for the next newsletter has been emailed to groups and staff. Content deadline is Fri., Mar 15 with the goal of newsletters arriving in homes by May 1. The issue will cover events for May, June and July.

Finance: Jenni reported

- Jenni provided Council with the Finance report through Feb. 2019. Weekly collection totals continue to be ahead of what is in the budget.
- The expected disbursement from 1F1H1L campaign was received in the amount of \$3661.00.
- As of now, there are 12 St.MM parishioner students enrolled for the 2019-20 school year at OLG. Need to continue to get the word out to parish families that they need to let the parish office know their intentions. Those who have not yet enrolled may have to go on a wait list if their class is full.

Buildings & Grounds: Jenni reported

There were no large expenditures during February, but there are a couple coming up related to heating. A regulator is going to be installed on the radiator in the hall outside of Madonna Hall so it can be adjusted to a more comfortable level when needed and kits are being purchased to retrofit some classroom thermostats so that they can be adjusted individually.

St. MM Parish Service Organization: Denise reported

- They are next scheduled to volunteer at Mt. Healthy Christian Village to help residents play bingo on Sat., Mar. 16 from 1:30–3 p.m. NOTE: They will NOT be meeting in April due to it being Holy Saturday. Volunteers are welcomed and needed as well as donations of items to be used as prizes. Residents especially love packages of sugar-free cookies. Lotions, small plush toys, blankets, crossword books, etc. are still accepted but they really enjoy the sugar-free cookies.

- The next scheduled event will be the Easter Egg Scramble on Easter Sunday, April 21 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Please contact Denise Blum if you have ideas, questions or are interested in learning how you can help with any of the St. MM Service Organization's activities, 328-1517.

Parish Bingo program: Debbie reported

- The Bingo program has been doing really well. Profit in January was up by \$6559 over the same time last year. In February the profit was over \$14K. With higher attendance, comes higher profits but also the need for even more help. Bingo is the most profitable fundraiser for the parish and struggles to do this every week with the fewest volunteers. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL AREAS.** There are sitting jobs and walking jobs for all skills and physical abilities. *Anyone interested in helping with any of these tasks should contact Debbie Klein, 385-1171.*

- There are many people who have only volunteered their time for the Festival in the past. Since the parish will no longer be having a festival, it has been suggested, and hoped, that those people will now volunteer one Friday a month to help with the Bingo program (or any amount of time is appreciated). This would be so helpful.

- Debbie expressed her thanks to all those who always show up to help and support the Bingo when needed. It is very much appreciated.

Old Business – Parish 100th Anniversary in 2020

The next planning meeting for this event is on Fri., Apr. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 21 of the PAC. Mass with the Archbishop has been confirmed for **Sun., Oct. 11, 2020 at 11 a.m.** There will be only one Mass on that Sunday. The 4:30 p.m. Mass for Saturday will not change.

Old Business – Fr. Jerry's 40th Anniversary

Kevin has not been able to connect with Assumption leadership regarding planning. St.MM will move ahead to begin planning and Jenni and/or Fr. Jerry will attempt to connect with the appropriate people at Assumption. No date has been set. Fr. Jerry's actual anniversary date falls on Sun., Jun. 16 which is Fathers' Day, so not sure if this is best day. Details will be announced.

Old Business – Casino Night

Casino Night was very successful with the largest crowd in attendance this year. There were 137 presale tickets sold and 20 tables reserved. Over 230 people total attended, including volunteer helpers. Final numbers have not yet been submitted but are expected to be good.

Old Business – PC Nominations & Election.

A flyer has gone in the bulletin and Fr. Jerry explained the timeline at the Masses. Denise will make sure the nomination forms are in the pews this weekend and Kevin will make sure they are collected.

Old Business – Fundraising

Continued discussion of ideas to replace fundraising for the Festival. It was suggested that there be a second Casino Night in the Fall, possibly around Labor Day. Pros and cons were discussed. Fr. Jerry cautioned that as we move further into Fall, schedules get very busy and could affect the size of crowd attracted at the time. A reminder was made to create a notice to tell parishioners that the Festival has been canceled and asking for their fundraising ideas. Something new and different from what others are doing.

New Business – Funeral Choir

Denise was asked why the Funeral Choir has not been called for funerals lately. Fr. Jerry explained that Dale Foley continued with this ministry after he retired, but that now his situation has changed and he has decided to retire completely. Since then, the choir has not been called. Pam Windisch will now contact members when there is a funeral and George Becker will provide the music so that this service can still be available.

New Business – Practice of Offering the Precious Blood at the Back of Church

Denise was asked about the wisdom of continuing to offer the Precious Blood at the back of Church since at the 4:30 p.m. Mass no one takes it. Fr. Jerry explained that where the Holy Eucharist is offered the Blood must also be offered. As the number of Eucharistic ministers dwindles, it is possible that in the future there will be no offering in the back of Church at any Mass, and those in the handicap pews will have someone come back to them only.

Closing Prayer

Next PC meeting: Thur., Apr. 4, 2019 in Rm. 21 of the PAC following the 7 p.m. evening Mass.

Minutes prepared by Janice Stentz