

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
January 20, 2016
7:00 pm

Present: Monsignor Amey, Fr. Chip Luckett, Paul Barrett, Gary Funkhouser, Karen Gilroy, George Griffin, Matt Curley, Carole Day, Debby Eisel, Erin Iturriaga, Joan Madaras, Matt McCormick and Virginia Onley.

Absent: Kammie Bell, John duFief, Cele Galczynski, and Lacy Prebula.

The meeting was called to order and Monsignor Amey gave the opening prayer.

The minutes from the November 18, 2015 meeting were accepted.

Pastor's Report

Monsignor informed us that this coming weekend is the kick-off for the 2016 Cardinal's Appeal. Monsignor will be speaking at all the Masses to announce the Appeal. The following weekend is the Commitment Weekend and we will listen to the Cardinal's recorded homily. The Follow-Up Weekend is Feb. 5/6. Hopefully the predicted weather will not stop too many parishioners from coming to Mass to hear about the Appeal. This is the 20th year that Bill Gessner has been the Co-Chair of the Appeal for St. Mary's Church. We went well over our goal for last year's collection by about \$20,000. There have been changes this year to the procedure for processing the collection. The archdiocese has contracted with Agilis, a national lockbox and fulfillment company located in Minnesota. Agilis will sort and process all gifts including one-time and recurring credit cards.

Monsignor has scheduled the Cardinal's Deanery meeting for the Upper Montgomery County East and West Deaneries for Feb. 9. The meeting begins at 3:30 pm followed by dinner at 5:00 pm.

The talk on marriage which was scheduled for this coming Sunday will need to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

There is a building and maintenance committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. The ADW has decided not to use Mary's House as a residence for retired priests. Monsignor met with the architects before Christmas to discuss revised plans to expand the school, etc. They discussed using the upstairs space in the school as a true parish center. The space would include parish offices, meeting rooms to accommodate parish meetings, etc. The current rectory would be for the priest's residence only. It would be most cost effective to build three more classrooms on the lower level of the school. The architects are now drawing up new plans for this vision. The church roof is in desperate need of repair and we hope to take care of the repairs in the spring. Monsignor will need to raise funds to cover the cost of the repair to the roof as well as for the school renovations.

We had a major bequest recently in the amount of \$282,039.09. There have been a few other smaller bequests as well. This money has gone into our parish savings account to work toward replacing the money that was used in 2014 to cover parish/school expenses.

The couple who currently works with our sponsor couple program, Bill and Ardie Camara, is looking for new sponsor couples as well as someone to take over the program. Monsignor would like to know if there are any recommendations for parish sponsor couples. The Camaras have been running the program for about twelve years. There are other programs that couples can attend however our program is free and more accommodating for some parishioners.

The “*Year of Mercy*” has begun. Monsignor handed out a flyer for a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors in the Archdiocese of Washington. The Holy Door is a door that opens in the Church in order to reach out to those who for many reasons are far away, according to Pope Francis. The Holy Doors of the ADW are at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Old Business

Christmas Season

Monsignor was very pleased with how Christmas was celebrated in our parish this year. All the Masses had a very full attendance and particularly the Midnight Mass. Karen mentioned that she is happy that our priests don’t berate the “sometime” Catholics who come to Christmas Mass.

New Business

School Highlights

Debby commented on the parish gala which takes place on April 9. They are trying to be sure all parishioners who are in our parish ministries are invited. The theme for this year’s gala is, “Irish Blessings”. The gala committee is already working very hard. Debby has been preparing all of the necessary paperwork to begin having a full-day 4 year old pre-k class next year. She also needs to submit paperwork to be approved for 4 year olds to be allowed into our current day care program. Having the extended day for preschool will encourage more students to be enrolled in the school. If school is open this Friday, our older students will be going to the Rally and Mass for Life. Six new students have joined our school since the beginning of 2016. There are currently 171 students attending St. Mary’s School. Over \$50,000 has been collected for the Annual School Appeal. A very generous family has donated money for the appeal in appreciation for the parish helping them when they were in need. The school is holding an Open House on January 31. There will be coffee and donuts for all parishioners. The Annual Corn Toss tournament is on Jan. 30.

Liaison reports-

Social Concerns

Erin asked us to look at the social concerns calendar for 2016. She explained what the committee is planning to provide this year. Some of the events were discussed. The complete calendar will be updated and sent out when complete. There will be blood pressure screenings every second Sunday after the 9 & 10:30 am Masses. We will also provide flu shots through the Health Ministry this year on September 18.

The friendly visitor program started up last year. Unfortunately, they have determined that by the time someone can visit the hospital bound person they have already checked out of the hospital. The Health Committee is still working out the best way to serve the parish perhaps through local assisted living facilities. About 50 people turned out for the bone marrow registry last year and they may offer that again this year. They may also hold a blood drive. This Lent, social concerns will host three Lenten Retreats with a Soup Dinner. Other ideas for events include a parish mission and a men's group, if we feel they would enrich parish life at St. Mary's. Erin recently attended a Community Ministries of Rockville meeting. She feels that she would like to be involved with the organization only if they are willing to talk about the need for housing for pregnant women in Montgomery County. Currently, women in Montgomery County don't have a choice when choosing "life" for their unborn children. Erin would like our food collections amounts to increase and will look for ways to get word out to the parishioners.

Monsignor informed us that Fr. Willie will be returning to the parish at the end of February and plans to stay through May. Virginia informed us that the City of Rockville is providing a bus to Annapolis on January 25 to a meeting with our state delegates.

(The meeting was ended because of inclement weather)

Next meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 17, at 7 pm. Fr. Chip gave the closing prayer. We have set the dates for our 2016 meetings, please mark them on your calendar (Third Wednesday of the month):

March 16

April 20

May 18

Parish Pastoral Council Positions

President-Monsignor Amey

Chairperson- George Griffin

1st VC and Building-John duFief

2nd VC-Gary Funkhouser

Recording Secretary – Joan Madaras

Corresponding Secretary-Virginia Onley

Liaison for Community-Karen Gilroy

Liaison for Service- Matt McCormick

Liaison for Worship- Paul Barrett

Liaison for Stewardship/Admin-Kammie Bell

Liaison for Education – Carole Day