

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
February 17, 2016
7:00 pm

Present: Monsignor Amey, Paul Barrett, Gary Funkhouser, Erin Iturriaga, Joan Madaras, and Virginia Onley.

Absent: Fr. Chip Lockett, Kammie Bell, Matt Curley, Carole Day, John duFief, Debra Eisel, Cele Galczynski, Karen Gilroy, George Griffin, Matt McCormick and Lacy Prebula.

The meeting was called to order and Monsignor Amey led us in the ADW prayer for the *Year of Mercy*.

The minutes from the January 20, 2016 meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report

Monsignor commented on the Cardinal's Appeal which began with the Pastor's Homily on January 23/24. Unfortunately the Blizzard of 2016 prohibited most people from coming to Mass that weekend. The following weekend was the Commitment Weekend and then the Follow-up weekend was February 5/6.

Cardinal Wuerl was here for the annual deanery meeting visit and dinner on Feb. 9. This was a combined meeting for the Upper Montgomery County East and West Deaneries. Monsignor thought the meeting went very well and that the Cardinal was very pleased with the meeting and dinner. He was able to converse with the clergy of both deaneries.

The next presentation by the Architects for the building committee is scheduled for February 24, at 7:00 pm. (Meeting was rescheduled for March 3). Committee members from the Building Committee, the School Advisory Board, the Finance Committee and Parish Council will all be invited to attend.

Monsignor commented about the 200th Anniversary of Our Lady's Chapel which takes place in 2017. He would like to begin making plans for an event to commemorate the special occasion. Perhaps we could host an oyster and bull roast or pot luck dinner. It would be nice to have an outdoor Mass with the Main Church as a backup location if there is rain. A special one-time event would be a nice celebration.

We are very blessed to have snow removal services from one of our parishioners. We thank the Todd Dickerson family for keeping our snow removal expenses to a minimum.

We have rescheduled the talk on marriage validation and annulments for March 6, at 2 pm. The original date was cancelled due to the blizzard. There will be time scheduled after the meeting to speak to Monsignor and Fr. Chip to ask more personal questions and to plan to move forward with their marriage. There is a lot of misconception about obtaining an annulment. Pope Francis has made it easier to go through the process and some marriages only need a simple "Lack of Canonical Form" process for annulment.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

New Business

Liaison reports-

Erin reported that Social Concerns will be hosting a family Lenten Supper and Retreat series for three weeks in Lent. There will be a light soup supper followed by a talk given by three different speakers. The dates are on Fridays on March 4, 11, & 18. The retreats are free but you can make a monetary donation.

Monsignor reported that the ADW now has an Office of Public Policy and they are looking for a parish point of contact from each parish. The contact would collaborate with the parish pastor to develop a procedure for approving materials for the purpose of dissemination, distribute public policy information (catechetical and legislative), attend and/or organize relevant events hosted by the Maryland Catholic Conference, invite other parishioners to assist in issue advocacy and to communicate with legislative members during legislative sessions. Monsignor suggested we consider a parishioner who would serve as our parish liaison for this position. Our principal, Debby Eisel, attended Lobby Night and was very disappointed with the turnout as well as the unavailability of our representatives. Gary suggested that the person would work very closely with social concerns and must be good at communication, political awareness, etc.

Virginia mentioned that we need more liturgical ministers to serve during Mass. When the ministers that have signed up for a particular Mass don't show, we need others who are in the congregation to step up during the Mass. Also, she noticed some lectors and Extraordinary Ministers that we already have commissioned are not signing up to serve. Perhaps we need to look at a better scheduling system or an email communication between the ministers to encourage more participation. Some parishes put the names of who is serving for all the Masses in the bulletin which makes them more accountable. Monsignor asked Virginia to follow up about our procedures for the ministers with Cele.

Next meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 16, at 7 pm. Monsignor gave the closing prayer. We have set the dates for our 2016 meetings. Please mark the remaining dates on your calendar (Third Wednesday of the month):

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