

## St. Margaret Mary Parish Pastoral Council Minutes December 5, 2011

*Gathering Prayer/Reflections were prepared and led by Fr. Andy Switzer*

*Minutes from the November 7, 2011 meeting were accepted as presented*

*Check In / What Have You Heard? : Council Members*

- Multiple parishioners gave high praises for the awe-inspiring Taize prayer service
- There has been positive feedback on the recent Bishop Bransfield TV ads
- The RCIA Rite of Acceptance and Evening of Remembrance services were well received by parishioners

*Parish Ministries Updates: Council Members*

- The new Meal Ministry has over 30 parishioners signed up to help prepare meals and 1 meal has already been served. Strategies for identifying those to be served include possible links to prayer line or bereavement committee. It was suggested that Pat's name and phone be included on the front page of the bulletin and monthly messages in the bulletin identifying the ministry's services (similar to info on how to get Communion to those unable to attend Mass)
- Cooperation between the Food Cupboard and Clothing Closet has resulted in help with clothes to clients who came in need of food.
- The CRHP programs for men and for women are on currently on hiatus

*Planning for a Spring Parish Assembly*

- George Weigly, a former Pastoral Council member and facilitator for our last Parish Assembly is willing to assist the planning committee. Council members Diane Shaw and Marshall Griffin also volunteered to work on the committee and Fr. Andy said he would sit in on meetings

*Pastor Announcements: Fr. Joseph Peterson*

- Most of the ceiling lights in the church needing replacement have been installed.
- Our meeting agendas should reflect an ongoing assessment of the parish's progress on goals in our Pastoral Plan rather than do it once a year in our August retreat.

*Associate Pastor Comments: Fr. Andy Switzer*

- First Reconciliation went quite well. No one was afraid and all were well prepared (parents and children)
- RCIA catechumens and candidates are moved and touched by the support they feel from the parish community, especially during the Rite of Acceptance. Parishioners were also moved by the rite. A suggestion was made that a microphone be used so that the congregation could hear the individual statements offered by the RCIA participants.

*Vicariate Updates: Fr. Joseph Peterson*

- The recent super vicariate meeting held at SMM was well attended and included a presentation of some recent efforts to combat poverty in West Virginia
- A day of reflection will be held Dec 15 with topic "So you want to be a Shepherd" with focus on the Bishop's recent pastoral statement on mental health. There is a need to help parishes and pastoral councils determine the boundaries of their efforts in this area. Hopefully there will be some workshop(s) to help with this.
- Fr Peterson has volunteered our parish as a "listening post" for discussions on diocesan efforts on poverty

*Updates from Parish Pastoral Team:*

*Parish School of Religion: Alyssa Pasternak Post*

- First Reconciliation retreat and sacrament attended by 20 students and 30 family members. PSR catechists Joanna Mulligan and Connie Simonton, with PCES 2nd Grade teacher Anne Garvin, led a very nice retreat around the theme of the Prodigal Son. Fr. Andy was joined by Fr. Eric and Fr. Gallagher for the sacrament.
- Collection for our Advent Giving Project has begun. Students are donating gently used toys that will be given to the Salvation Army the week before Christmas.
- 19 students are preparing for Confirmation
- 6 catechists have begun the Echoes of Faith video on the Scriptures in an effort to work towards catechetical certification with the diocese

*InterParish Youth/Adult Faith Formation: Catherine Wharton*

- Youth Faith Formation -- Life Teen & EDGE Caroling December 18, March for Life & Youth Rally at Mount St. Mary (Over Night) Jan 22/23
- Youth Ministers Faith Formation-- Third Wednesday of Month; St. Francis Xavier 5:30 – 8 p.m. taught by Deacon Gerry Goetemann entitled, “What the Catholic Church teaches about the Holy Spirit”. Our series will conclude in April. This series may be offered to the Parkersburg Vicariate this year.
- Family Faith Formation -- Evening of Remembrance November 18. Moving service that was well attended. Reception was provided afterwards. Taize Prayer Services: Dec 2 – St. Margaret Mary 7 p.m., well received by those who attended. About 50 in attendance with reception provided afterwards. Dec 4 – First Lutheran – 3p.m., Approximately 40 individuals in attendance. Dec 18 – St. Francis Xavier – 3 p.m. Dec 23 – Trinity Episcopal – 7 p.m. Visitation of St. Nicholas, Father Leon Alexander, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. – St. Francis Xavier
- March for Life & Youth Rally at Mount St. Mary (Over Night) and March in Washington DC – Jan 22/23
- Shadow Passion (Stations of the Cross in Silhouette) Feb 24 – Blennerhassett Middle School Auditorium March 23 – Blessed Sacrament Charleston, WV March 30 – Good Shepherd, (Little Pink Church)
- Adult Faith Formation -- Fr. Arok offering an Advent Retreat to our Parkersburg Vicariate. It will take place on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Youth Programs/Life Teen: Michele McClung*

- We are continuing our semester on the paschal mystery.
- In November we had 2 guest speakers. Meg Watzek spoke on putting our faith into action and Dr Gary Nelson spoke on teen depression.
- We will go Christmas caroling at a nursing home December 18.
- Lifeteen and Edge are each sponsoring a child from the Angel Tree.
- We will not meet on Christmas. January 1 will be a social night.

*Parish Team Manager Comments: Susanne Bock*

- Parking lot has been patched and new roof on PAC education wing to begin soon
- Fr Peterson noted that we currently have 8 buildings to maintain (church, school, parish hall, rectory, office building, Sr. Lil’s house, PAC, building serving as music store)

*Marshall G+riffin volunteered to prepare the Gathering Prayer/Reflection for January 9 meeting*