

## Saint Martha Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Minutes

June 7, 2018

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**Present:** Father Mike, Deacon John Finn, Operations Manager Don Morgan, Vice-Chair Judi Smelser, Secretary David Flint, Mike Horvath, Jean Jorgensen, Soraya Nowland CCW outgoing, Ron Styka, Grand Knight K of C Doug Hunter, CCW President Beth Buiocchi

**Absent:** Deacon Carl Boehlert, Sister Anita, Monica Dowell, Jackie Rosalez, Jim Collom, Mike Bobinski

**Guests:** Annie Bennett, John Ruh, David Herring, Mike Siminski, Anne Readett

**Meeting began** at 7:01 with an opening prayer. Judi Smelser chaired the meeting due to Jim Collom's absence. The Gospel for June 11 by Mark 3:20-35 was read and a group discussion was had about its meaning.

### Old Business

\* **Diocesan Assembly - Saint Martha Plan by Mike Siminski and Dave Herring:** The event, Made for Happiness Assembly, is to be held on Sept. 22, 2018 at the Breslin Center. The event will begin at the Cathedral with participants marching to the Breslin Center. There will be no Masses on that Saturday night at any of the Parishes in the Diocese. Mike and Dave are the leaders for Saint Martha.

The Diocese has set goals for attendance for each Parish in the Diocese and Saint Martha's goal for attendance is 291 people. The goal for total attendance at this event is between 10,000 and 15,000 people.

The number of volunteers needed to make this event a success is 2100 people. Saint Martha has been asked to provide 50 people to work the event and at this time 22 have signed up. Every person who wants to attend the event has to sign up on line at [www.madeforhappiness.org](http://www.madeforhappiness.org).

There will be 3 parts to the event- Procession, Assembly, and Mass. The Diocese would like to see 2000 people in the Procession which is a 4 mile walk if you start at the Cathedral or a 2 mile walk if you start at Resurrection Catholic Church. Beginning at 7 am buses will transport people from the Breslin Center to the Cathedral and Resurrection in the morning prior to the Procession. MSU is charging \$10.00 for parking but the event is free to participants.

Mike Siminski gets a list from the Diocese of people who have signed up to attend the event. If you wish to volunteer to help, please contact Mike Siminski at [michaelsiminski56@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsiminski56@gmail.com) or call him at 517-505-0270.

\* **Parish Picnic by Soraya Nowland:** It will be held on September 9, 2018 from Noon to 3 pm. Child care will begin at 11:00 am. St. Martha will provide the meat, lemonade, water, plates and cups. No alcohol will be provided. Discussion was had about what meat will be provided. At this time it was decided to do chicken, brats, and hot dogs. Soraya will look into prices and we may switch to hamburgers. Each participant will be asked to bring a dish to pass.

The volunteers will be asked to sign up on line using the same system that has been used for the fish fry's. Soraya would like to have the names of people who are willing to be the coordinators for the event by Friday June 15. The PPC has been asked to talk to people of the Parish to find volunteers to fill the various coordinator positions. We will need coordinators for food, games, communication, setup including tent and table rental, child care and cleanup.

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- \* **Parish Picnic by Soraya Nowland continued:** Jean Jorgensen has volunteered to make up Saint Martha t-shirts and hats that will be for sale. Doug Hunter volunteered the K of C to do the grilling. Judi Smelser volunteered to help with the communications aspects for the event or find a coordinator for this position. Please contact Soraya at [Lsorayan@yahoo.com](mailto:Lsorayan@yahoo.com) with the names of coordinators by Friday June 15.
- \* **Status/Results of Surveys:** The general consensus of the surveys was that Holy Week was very well done but there are some tweaks that Father agrees should be done. He has the surveys and they will be looked at before next year's services. As an example, at the Vigil service some people were lighting their candles with lighters before the altar servers had processed into the church. Father Mike was very proud and thankful of all of the Altar Servers and all of the people of the Parish who volunteered to do different aspects of the mass during the entire Holy Week services
- \* **Website development** is progressing. More information will be given later.
- \* **Outside Speaker by Father Mike:** The Evangelization Committee is trying to have a different speaker each month. Father Mike would like to do a series on the Sacraments. The goal is to have a different speaker each month.
- \* **PPC Identity by Father Mike:** He would like to see the PPC to be like a town square for the Parish beginning next year in September. This way the Parish will have a place to share their ideas about the Parish and give input to the PPC. Beginning next year the PPC will have representatives from the Finance Committee, Evangelization, and St. Vincent de Paul, as well as the Education, School, PSO, CCW, and the K of C. In the future, Father Mike would like to have a Social Justice Committee and a Worship Commission. Father Mike would like next year to have committees report to the PPC events that they are planning prior to the events actually happening.
- \* **Diocesan Services Appeal Update by Father Mike:** At this time Saint Martha is at 74% of its goal. Approximately 20% of the Parish has donated to the campaign.
- \* **Miscellaneous:** Mass attendance is slowly increasing. Saint Martha is averaging approximately 1000 people a weekend. There were 38 applicants for the Parish Secretaries position.

### New Business

- \* **Full Time Youth Minister Position:** Father Mike reported that the position has been posted on the Diocesan website. This position will be full time and include the ministries of youth and young adult. The Parish needs to be future focused for young adults and young families. He wants for the young adults programs that include faith formation, social, and activities for young husbands and young wives. So far we have 3 applicants.
- \* **Bulletin Changes:** Our new secretary IvyLynn Olson has been making changes to the bulletin. Father Mike believes that this is a work in progress, and he would like anyone that has suggestions to contact IvyLynn at the Parish office with suggestions and comments. Don Morgan has asked that over the summer or whenever we attend different Parishes to pick up a bulletin and bring it into the office for IvyLynn to look at for ideas.

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\* **Bulletin Changes continued:** Father Mike reported that the most missed aspect of the bulletin that he hears about at this time is the Parish Calendar. A suggestion was made to bring back the section that had lectors and servers separate from everything else.

Don Morgan mentioned that the people publishing the bulletin are having difficulty with reproducing our photos in the bulletin. He is in contact with them to try and resolve this problem.

\* **Time and Talent Event (Ministry Fair):** David Flint has volunteered to help organize this event. He will meet with Father Mike over the summer to work out the logistics for this event. A discussion was had about possibly doing it the same weekend as the Parish picnic. There was general consensus that this would not be a good idea and it would be better to do it on a separate doughnut weekend.

\* **Sign-Up Weekend:** Father Mike would like to have a sign up weekend soon. Sign-up cards will be put in each of the pews. During the Homily, Father Mike will give time for each member of the Parish to fill out a card with their pertinent information for the Parish and then they will be collected.

#### **Miscellaneous**

\* **Father Mike reported that the Lansing State Journal will be publishing an article about the Parish.** The theme will be about how our Parish is one year after the embezzlement case came to light. Father Mike, Monica Dowell, Leslie Berquist from Simplified Tax, Don Morgan, and Dave Maluchnik gave the reporter a tour of the Parish and answered their questions. Father Mike believes the reporter was impressed with how far the Parish has come and hopefully it will be a positive article.

\* **Regarding the embezzlement case:** It is due to go to trial in August of this year. At the request of the Insurance Company, the court has put Father Jon's home into receiver ship.

\* **Saint Martha's 8th grade graduation** was this week. Father Mike was very impressed with how well the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were able to go to the ambo and talk about their experiences at Saint Martha and what Saint Martha did for them.

\* **The flat portions of the churches roof** are being repaired at this time.

\* **A discussion was had about Eucharistic Minister training.** Many people will not participate in this ministry because they say they have not been trained when they are asked to help. Father Mike would like to see if a webinar could be developed or found that could give this training instead of having a training night at the church.

\* **Father Mike reported that he is looking into the previous Insurance Claim that the Parish had regarding the lightning strike that affected the sound system.** The sound system has not been right since this incident.

\* **Father Mike has asked Monica to write a report to him about the possibility of reducing the St. Martha School year** to 180 days instead of the 200 day school year we currently have.

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- \* **Due to the length of the meeting** it was decided that we would move the Discussion regarding the Divine Renovation until the next meeting.
  
- \* **A heartfelt good bye was given** by the PPC to Mike Horvath who is rotating off of the PPC after this meeting. We also thanked Soraya Nowland and Mike Bobinski for all of their hard work and dedication to the Parish as they leave their leadership positions at the CCW and the K of C. A new member for the PPC will be chosen during a mass in the next couple of weeks.
  
- \* **Closing Prayer** Hail Mary
  
- \* **It was decided to move the next PPC meeting to September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7 pm** from September 6<sup>th</sup>.
  
- \* **Meeting adjourned** at 9:01 pm