

Saint Martha Parish Pastoral (PPC) Council Meeting

May 5, 2018

Present: Father Mike, Sister Anita, Don Morgan, Monica Dowell, Jackie Rosalez, Chair Jim Collom, Vice Chair Judi Smelser, Secretary Dr. David Flint, Mike Horvath, Jean Jorgensen, Mike Bobinski, Soraya Nowland, Doug Hunter, Beth Buiochi

Absent: Deacon Carl Boehlert, Deacon John Finn, Ron Styka, Annie Bennett

Guests: John Rhu

Meeting began at 7:02 pm with an opening prayer and reflection on Mark's Gospel 16: 15-20.

Old Business: Operations Manager Don Morgan

Physical Security update: Monica Dowell, Don Morgan, and staff have worked on the flow for the School. Two doors are not secure at this time for the lock down system, but will be replaced over the summer. Meridian Township Fire and Police have approved procedures and set up for the School. All systems will be in place for the opening of School this fall.

Landscaping of the front of the Church will begin once school is finished this spring.

Little kids play ground will be installed this summer. Final plans for the playground are being finalized at this time.

Incorporation of the Parish: Father Mike stated that the Diocese is in the process of incorporating each individual Parish in the Diocese. Livingston County Parishes have all been incorporated; Ingham County will be done in the future. This is being done so that each individual Parish will be its own separate entity in civil law as it already is in Canon (Church) law. At this time, the assets of each Parish are titled in the name of the Bishop. Once the incorporation is completed each individual Parish will own the assets of its own Parish. This is being done for several reasons, including to protect the assets and savings of individual Parishes. The Vatican asked the American Dioceses to do this in 1911.

Parish Picnic: Soraya Nowland and Mike Bobinski presented information regarding the Parish picnic which will be held Sunday September 9, 2018. We will be needing chair people and subcommittee chair people to make this event a success. It was asked that each PPC member bring at least two people to the next PPC meeting who would be willing to be a committee or subcommittee chairs. Soraya volunteered to be one of the co-chairs. The general consensus of the PPC is not to have beer at this event since it is going to be geared to family fun with children present.

Additional Representation of other groups at PPC: Father Mike feels we need to have other groups represented at the PPC meetings. He feels that at least Finance, Evangelization, and St. Vincent de Paul should have representatives at the PPC. It was noted that at the K of C meeting that was held prior to the PPC meeting, the new monthly speaker program at the Parish was announced to the K of C and it will begin in June. This program was initiated by the Evangelization Committee, and tonight was the first time the PPC was informed of this program. This is why we need representatives from other groups of the Parish at PPC meetings, so that the PPC is aware of what the other organizations in the Parish are planning to do. Father Mike is trying to decide how he wants to have the Finance Committee represented at the PPC. He feels that there needs to be information exchange between the PPC and Finance Committee but he has not decided whether a PPC member needs to go to the Finance Committee meetings and report back to the PPC or have a Finance Committee member attend the PPC meetings.

New Business:

New Member Solicitation: Mike Horvath will be rotating off of the PPC this June. Request for a new member will be published this weekend in the bulletin. Father Mike asked for members of the PPC to recruit a potential new member and have them contact the Parish Office if they are interested. The new member will be chosen by lot as has been done in the past.

Town Hall Meeting Discussion: There was a recommendation by John Ruh at the town hall meeting that the Finance Committee be an open meeting for Parish members. At present the meetings are closed and Father Mike feels that they should stay this way. There was a suggestion that at the PPC meetings, if we had a member of the Finance Committee present we could publish in the bulletin topics for the next PPC meeting, regarding Parish financial decisions that are going to be addressed at the next Finance meeting, giving Parishioners an opportunity to voice their opinion before decisions were made about Parish expenditures. Then the Finance Committee representative could take those opinions to the Finance Committee meeting. Father Mike is going to consider this suggestion. Over all it was the consensus that the town hall was well done and good questions were asked. It was noted that the attendance was lower than most of us would have liked to have seen. Father Mike stated that the Parish still owes around 2 million dollars to the Diocese for the original mortgage. In one of the previous bulletins Father Mike made it sound like we were going to be able to pay off half of the mortgage with the money we have received from the insurance companies to the Diocese. Father Mike clarified his comments in the bulletin that there is no requirement with the Diocese that we have to pay down the balance with moneys received from the insurance company. A decision will be made at a later date by the Parish and the Diocese once all Insurance claims are complete, about paying off the debt Saint Martha owes the Diocese or starting a monthly mortgage payment again with the Diocese. At this time the Parish is not making mortgage payments to the Diocese.

Diocesan Assembly - Saint Martha plan: Father Mike will be requesting that either Dave Herring or Mike Siminski attend the next PPC meeting to discuss Saint Martha's plan for this event on September 22, 2018 at the Breslin Center. Dave and Mike are taking the lead for Saint Martha's participation in this event.

Graduation Mass: The High School Graduation Mass has been moved this year to Saturday June 2, 2018 at the 5 pm Mass. In the past this Mass was on Sunday at 10 am. A question was asked to why the change was made. Jackie Rosalez stated that Father Mike, herself, and Monica Dowell decided to make the change because Okemos and Haslett High Schools have Graduation on Sunday and it was too difficult for the families of the graduates to make it to the Graduation Ceremonies and attend the Mass at Saint Martha at 10 am. It was mentioned that the CCW and the K of C give out scholarships at this Mass and by moving the Graduation Mass to Saturday that the exposure for the generosity of the CCW and K of C would potentially be less. Father Mike said that based on the head counts at each Mass so far the attendance at each of the Parishes services is very close to the same for each Mass, so exposure should be the same for the CCW and the K of C. The Parish is going to try it this way for this year and reassess after the Graduation Mass is over whether or not it should be changed.

Discussion of Divine Renovation, pages 136-164: Compared to one year ago our Parish is in a lot better place. We still have more things to do but we are moving forward in a positive manner. A general discussion on the readings material was had by the PPC. There were no specific recommendations based on the readings as to what we can incorporate into Parish life at Saint Martha. It was noted that the music volume is still too loud especially for those Parishioners who wear hearing aids but the music program is well liked.

Closing Prayer was offered by Father Mike.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm

Next meeting: June 7, 2018 at 7 pm