

St. Martha Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2018
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Present: Father Mike, Sister Anita, Chair Jim Collom, Secretary David Flint, Monica Dowell, Mike Horvath, Jean Jorgensen, Soraya Nowland, Jackie Rosalez, Mike Bobinski, Judi Smelser, Ron Styka, Don Morgan, Annie Bennett, Doug Hunter, John Ruh

Absent: John Finn, Carl Boehlert

Meeting began at 7:03 pm with an opening prayer by Father Mike, and a reading of the Gospel for March 4, 2018 - John 2:13-25

Old Business

- * **Building Update by Don Morgan:** Minor punch list of items to do on the new addition. Students have started using the new computers in the computer lab. Monica Dowell led an impromptu volleyball game in the new gym before school this past week. She had a large turnout for the volleyball game. The security for the Parish, school, and new addition are being evaluated with the local police and fire departments. There will be walk-thru's with these agencies to determine what more is needed to be done for the safety of the Parish and school.
- * **24 Hours for the Lord:** Will be March 9 and 10 from 3 pm to 3 pm. There will be four periods of confession. Adoration signup sheets will be available this weekend. This event is being coordinated with Saint Mary of Williamston for the benefit of both Parishes. The bulletin this weekend will have a schedule of all of the scheduled activities for this adoration. The K of C are planning to be present during the night time hours. The CCW has purchased books to aid the participants during the adoration.
- * **Mass Matters:** Has been well attended. Approximately 60 people for each evening.
- * **Parish Picnic:** Mike Bobinski reported that the event is scheduled for September 9. The K of C will be looking for coordinators for the picnic. There is no overall chair at this time.
- * **Additional Representation of other groups at PPC:** Father Mike reported that there is no progress on this matter at this time other than he is still considering what should be done.
- * **Parking Lot:** At this time the Parish does not have the funds to repair the parking lot. It however is on the-to do list once funds become available.

New Business

- * **Corporation-Diocese of Lansing/Saint Martha:** Father Mike reported that the Diocese of Lansing will be working to have each individual Parish be its own Civil Corporation. This is being done because presently under Canon Law, each individual Parish owns the assets of its own Parish - not the Diocese. However, under Civil Law the Bishop owns everything in each Parish and the Diocese. This creates potential issues when legal actions happen against a Parish or the Diocese. Once this change is completed, each individual Parish will own their own assets. This will allow Canon and Civil Law to be more in line with each other.

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- * **Diocesan Service Appeal (DSA):** There was no DSA last year at Saint Martha because the Diocese started its Witness of Hope Program. Our goal for the DSA is less than what it was two years ago. Father Mike did not have the exact number at this meeting. This appeal will begin shortly after Easter.
- * **Town Hall Meeting:** This will be April 8, beginning at noon. Father Mike has held off on asking for donations to the Parish because he felt that the Parish needed to have this Town Hall meeting first. This meeting will give Father Mike the opportunity to discuss with those in attendance a full accounting of where the Parish is financially. There will be a financial report made available at this meeting for attendees to review as well as a presentation. This meeting is still in the planning stages but Father Mike expects that there will be he, the Parish Bookkeepers, Don Morgan, and members of the Finance Committee present to answer questions from those in attendance. There will be opportunities for those in attendance to ask questions, and Father Mike is committed to stay and answer to his best ability all questions that are asked. Father Mike wants to emphasize the present and future, but he realizes the past is going to have to be discussed.
- * **Divine Renovation:** Discussion was had regarding Homilies and their length. The PPC felt that time limits of homilies were irrelevant. They felt that Homilies need to be engaging. The Homilies are a way that each Parish and each Mass can separate itself from other Parishes. Saint Martha is blessed to have two Priests with two different styles of homilies.

Discussion was also had regarding the Personal and Practical aspects of Homilies. There is a place for both in our Parish. It was felt that the homilies are one way our Parish can reinforce the idea of our members having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Attendance at Saint Martha is going up. Last weekend we had nearly 1,000 people attend services.

Discussion was had about having video type screens in the front of the church. Many members of the PPC have attended Church services where video screens were used. It was noted that when these screens are used well it can benefit the services, but when they are not done well they are a distraction. If this is to be incorporated into Saint Martha services in order to have it done well, an audio visual person would likely need to be hired. No decision was made at this time, but it will be discussed at future meetings.

No April meeting.

Next meeting - May 8.

Closing Prayer was given by Sister Anita.

Meeting closed at 9 pm.