



Our Lady Star of the Sea

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

“Investigate, Consider Information, and Develop Recommendations”

April 20, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Monsignor Brennan
Rob Vella
Fr. Chris Knight
Judy Slattery
Michael Lenahen

Terry Williams
Ben Luke
Fr. Eric Stelzer

Mary Ann Miller
Sr. Lucy Clynes
Vanessa Valenzuela

Members Absent:

Leah Tahiry

Agenda Items:

1. Opening Prayer entitled “A Wave of Rejuvenation Prayer”

2. Review of March 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- a. Motion to accept meeting minutes, seconded, and approved unanimously.

3. Msgr. Brennan’s Parish Update

- a. The Statue of Mary has been installed. Very well received by parishioners. Anticipating a Sunday, May 7, 2023 blessing and crowning. Dr. Alex Groppe is coordinating to have the first communicants involved.
- b. March 25–26, **Women’s Retreat at Marywood**. - positive feedback received.
- c. Msgr. Brennan recognized Fr. Eric and Fr. Knight as Triduum celebrants.
- d. April 1st was the **Anointing of the Sick Mass**. Around 100 completed cards to receive this sacrament.

Upcoming Events

- e. **Men’s Retreat at Marywood**, April 22-23, 2023, Bishop Estevez in attendance taking confessions.
- f. CCW Bingo Night - April 27th.
- g. Bishop Pohlmeier on May 11th is to attend the Sacrament of Confirmation among the Palmer Academy and Faith Formation classes.
- h. Sister Lucy requested an update and Mary Anne Miller reported the Easter Egg Hunt was a well-attended, successful event.

4. Committee Reports

a. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION, Ben Luke:

- i. Draft submitted to Pastoral Council Members via email soliciting their input and criticisms.
 1. Verbal review of draft recommendation including the following highlights:
 - a. The draft is formatted to include a series of recommendations to the parish app where changes can be implemented and tracked through analytics.
 - b. Recommendations were suggested due to minimal investment of cost and time with the potential for increased engagement to content.
 - c. Questions from the committee included:
 - i. Does my parish app have any functionality that is lacking?
 1. Answer: yes, ministry-specific scheduling is not a feature my parish app would support, although a button can direct users to [Ministry Scheduler Pro](#) website.
 - ii. Could this work with FlockNote? Is it an either/or decision?
 1. Answer: Yes, it is an either-or decision. Both Flocknote and myParish app platforms can provide an app and website which are modeled to be in sync with each other. It would be best to stay on one platform or the other.

b. PARISHIONER ENGAGEMENT, Terry Williams:

- i. Terry referenced an email sent on April 19th to council members which included two documents for discussion. One reflects the further study of the Ambassador Program, and the second is a proposed draft survey for Ministry Heads to deepen our understanding of their attitudes toward new policies being considered for adoption.
- ii. Updates: Review of proposed Ambassadors Program with Hospitality Head, Nancy Vella.
 1. Recently 89 families have joined the parish.
 - a. Engagement proposal: phone call initially, prompting a meeting whereby ambassadors bring parish content to share. Ideas such as a letter from Msgr., bulletin, or instructions on how to use MyParish app.
 2. Possibility to recruit former CRHP members to serve as ambassadors.

- iii. Msgr. Brennan mentions that if the council suggests the recommendation to be presented to Msgr., then Msgr will decide how to implement the recommendation.
- iv. Mike requested clarity to define “what is the desired outcome”, and “how are they going to be trained”.
 - 1. If the desired outcome is only to provide initial contact and parish introduction, then the plan might be more easily structured.
 - 2. If the desired outcome is spending time over a few months to encourage engagement, then training and a larger team may be necessary.
- v. Mary Anne provided some comparable insights for Palmer Academy for new families. 40-60 families were ambassadors who would assign 1-2 families as needed for contacts.

Terry presented on Ministry Heads

- vi. A draft survey was designed and released to committee members.
 - vii. Mike commented the survey is asking good questions which allow ministries to elaborate on whether they have a need for new members, or if they need new ministry leadership.
 - viii. Mary Anne commented it would be good to recruit leaders for our ministries. Suggested advertising upcoming ministry vacancies.
 - ix. Sister Lucy commented on the Hope Committee and indicated Seniors-Chantal educated the ministry regarding online recruitment and online scheduling.
 - x. Sister Lucy commented on Celebration of Life and its evolution to a larger ministry and its demand.
 - xi. Mike indicated Terry’s committee should investigate on efforts to promote ministries.
- c. **TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE**, Mary Anne Miller:
- i. No recommendations to give to the group at this meeting.
 - ii. Mary Anne will have a designated person present the report at May or June meeting.
 - iii. Mike indicated a person on the council should present.
- d. **EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL**, Father Eric
- i. Msgr. has approved a poster series presentation of the Blessed Carlo Acutis Eucharistic miracles to be placed in the parish hall.
 - 1. Considering an event around this presentation.
 - 2. Considering Palmer Academy kids who can do a project on the content of the Eucharistic miracles.
 - 3. Considering paying for advertising.
 - ii. Considering a Eucharistic procession to bring the presence of Jesus into the streets.

- iii. Fr. Eric mentioned this may be a recommendation for next year.
 - 1. Judy commented it would be nice to provide Blessed Carlo Acutis biography information.
- iv. Vanessa suggested a bulletin in the pews or a section in the bulletin to spotlight a miracle each week in preparation for the presentation.
 - 1. Fr. Eric suggested maybe half page and suggested licensing or copyright considerations.
 - 2. Fr. Eric agreed to a recommendation to be presented for the next meeting.

5. General Discussion/Other Topics

- a. Mike reminded the council of the Welcome Reception immediately following this meeting.
- b. Msgr. commented that the committee recommendation for the Protection of the Unborn is being implemented.

6. Msgr. closed the meeting with a prayer.

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Next Meeting: May 25, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm