

PASTORAL COUNCIL OMOS/HC FEBRUARY 11, 2025 VIA ZOOM

Present (On Line): Fr Bill, Fr Justin, Tom McCall, Tracey Ferris, Michelle Giordano, Michelle Scatigno, Nancy Spoto, Giovanni Zarcone, Jim Flann, Frank Kirchgessner, Michael Giordano, Jane Witkowski, Donna Jacobi, Donna Petrella, Donna Jacobi

We opened the Meeting at 630 PM with a prayer from Fr Bill.

Michael Giordano shared his report on behalf of the Youth at OMOS. Part of his report was that 7 OMOS Youth (including Michael) received the Hands of Christ Award from the Bishop. The entire report appears later in these minutes.

Jane Witkowski updated Council on the IGNITE program which continues to be very successful - Fr Martuscello attended one of the meetings and the program is now seeing as many as 50 youth in attendance. The program needs more students and it is proven to be a good link to the Parishes for the parents.

The minutes from the previous PC meeting were read and reviewed.

The remaining reports were condensed and read. The entire reports are attached to these minutes.

OMOS Buildings and Grounds report

Numerous window projects are either completed or planned. Plumbing issues were completed (and an HVAC issue as well). Leaf cleanup will be contracted out this season and the remaining entrance doors to the Church will be added to the Sonitrol (Electronic Lock) system.

Finance Council Minutes:

This report is attached in full detail.

Advent Giving Tree Report:

The report is attached and a Thank You note from Catholic Charities

Liturgy Committee Report:

This report goes into great detail concerning the various Lenten Liturgies in planning. It also includes several posters/fliers and all of the details are included as attachments to the minutes.

HC School Principal's Report:

Higher Test Scores, Open Houses, Field Trips and Bingo Fundraisers were accomplishments. A school play is possible in the Spring.

Evangelization:

Grotto rededication is scheduled for June 8th, Movie Night is planned, St Patrick's Day dinner March 8th. Both Parishes are welcome, benefits Parishes and School.

Outside Library and Prayer Boxes;

Both areas are being used and participation is increasing.

OCIA:

HC, OMOS, St Charles and St Lawrence parishes are jointly providing the program for prospective future members of the Catholic Faith. The program is revised to allow catechumens to progress in the program at their own pace -

with reception occurring at a personally appropriate time - not necessarily the Easter Vigil.

OMOSHC Youth Programs

A number of activities were presented. Soup Supper (3/21) and St Joseph Table (3/16), Stations of the Cross and Bowling are scheduled.

Pastor Discussions:

- Neighbors in Need funds (over \$3K) well spent helping food crisis - much going to St Michaels. There is heightened concern about Gov't cutbacks - Backpack program, which provides food for families, will be strained further.
- The Parish Census was very successful. But it is known that many people that attend Mass or participate in other ways, have not been counted. Fr Bill asked that members ask around and try to encourage parishioners who have not filled out the survey to do so.
- CMA reached at OMOS and HC is V-E-R-Y close.
- Parishes are feeling stresses of increasing costs for maintenance and energy and other costs. Somewhere in Lent, Fr Bill will have to ask for increased Giving. Discussed various methods - % Increase, Fixed Value Increase weekly/monthly etc.
- HC is planning to sell the ECCC (Early Childhood Development Center) at the HC campus. There is a potential buyer - who has pledged an appropriate use. There are legal speed bumps and progress is slow.
- St Joseph Tables at each site, Fr Bill feels that PC Members should attend.
- EMHC had a rededication meeting and it was successful and well attended.
- Lenten Retreat will be at three parish sites and 2 sessions per day. 3/31 (St Lawrence), 4/1 (OMOS) and 4/2 (HC).

- A Photo Directory (A directory for the joint Parishes) is a want item. First step is a mini committee to check into vendors etc. This is a large project and a large group of helpers will eventually be needed. Last issue was 8 years ago. Probable need for PC to be involved.

There were some concerns about rugs and carpet at HC being exposed to the elements and deteriorating.

Father Bill agreed that the Black Color Booklets that offer daily reflections and prayer for Lent will be available. The parishes will order a couple of hundred more copies. These booklets are similar to those used at Christmas (Blue Color).

Jim Flann announced that he is stepping down from the position of Chairperson for Pastoral Council as of the end of this meeting. He will continue to represent HC Parish in the Pastoral Council for the remainder of his term. Michelle Giordano will assume the position immediately.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be April 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Holy Cross.

After a closing prayer by Fr Justin, we adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom McCall

Sec'y Pastoral Council OMOS/HC