

Minutes Pastoral Council Nov 13 2023

Present: Fr. Bill Coffas, Amy Mulcahy, Brett Granville, David Kommeth, Donna Jacobi, Donna Petrella, Leah Carrier, John Hayes, Marc Boeh, Maryanne Sutton, Michael Giardano, Nancy Spoto, Paul Vacca, Tracey Ferris, Tom McCall

Absent: Amanda Lozy-Lester, Fr. Justin Miller, Jonathan Stoklosa, Mark Tachin

Opening Prayer: Fr Bill

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Tracey Ferris and Brett Granville approved the minutes.

Chairperson's Discussion: Maryanne said she would send an email to members including a reminder of upcoming Meeting Dates/Times. Father Bill endorsed the needs for members to attend meetings. The input and feedback are valuable and very important.

The changes to the existing Covenant between the two parishes was read by Maryanne and approved by vote and will be completed.

The group listened to readings of the various reports. They are attached at the end of this note.

YOUTH

Youth Reports:

Leah Carrier, representing HC, read her report.

Michael Giordano read the report for OMOS.

As part of the youth segment, Fr. Bill reinforced how important CASE training and observance is to the Parishes. The youth are involved in many ways in the parish activities and Fr. I want as much involvement as possible. This highlights the need for CASE training and implementation.

Buildings and Grounds:

Reports from both HC and OMOS were read into the minutes by Tom McCall on behalf of Rob Weigel and Joe DiVencenzo.

FINANCE:

Brett Grenville reported that there are no updates for either Parish at this time.

LITURGY:

Donna Petrella read her report on Parish Liturgies into the record.

School Advisory

Tracey Ferris read the report from TJ Verzillo.

Update of K of C Program at HC

David Kommeth said that there is a potential trip to Montreal to visit the Basilica there and it would include K of C members but that the planning is very preliminary.

Fr. Bill's Conversation:

- Father would like to see more participation at Mass (Greeters, Ushers, Altar Servers etc). Of course, that is a continuing need.
- Attendance is creeping upwards as the return from COVID times goes on.

- The Valley of Silence is settling in a bit at MOS, but there are some issues at HC. Some people resist the idea of silence once they enter the Church proper. Fr. said that people might come earlier or even stay after a bit. Tom McCall added that the ushers close the doors to the greeting room 15 mins before Mass and it does partially contain the noise.
- The Hall at HC is often locked at 8 AM Mass on Sundays and that room would absorb some of the meeting noises. Can it be opened?
- FR reminded us that being a "nice" catholic requires us to not only be sociable with others but to take time to be sociable with God and "visit" with Him when we arrive.
- We need to increase a feeling of community among the two congregations. The increased participation in various ministries will help.
- We need to get a Servant's Desk Program at HC. The Servant's Desk at OMOS has been quite successful and it adds a special plus. It relieves the Parish Office staff from dealing with quite as many issues during the hours they are open. Individuals who need info on various ministries and programs can be pointed to the Servant's Desk.
- Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at HC this year. Alternating the locations is a good thing. Father asked that PC members should consider attending this service.
- Administrative Ass't search has been a difficult one. Ola Mscichowski has been hired.
- There are websites for each parish and they do not get the "hits" that were expected. The parishes will go to one, shared website. We will maintain 2 separate Facebook pages.
- The Parishes will move to one shared email address. The original addresses will remain active but the parish congregations will be steered toward the new, singular address.
- Fr is investigating an on-line program for scheduling a Mass, taking pressure off of the antiquated Mass Book system.
- It has come to light that the Sacramental Records (Baptisms etc) at HC are not stored in a fireproof vault. As soon as possible these records will be relocated to the fireproof vault at OMOS.

- Office Hours will remain the same at OMOS and HC:
- OMOS Weds 9 to 3
- HC Mon 9-3
- Upcoming St Joseph Tables at 2 locations were discussed and it was decided that there will be 1 St Joseph Table going forward. This year it will be at OMOS on 3/21 after the 5:30 PM Mass. This plan is aimed at increasing the "sharing" ideal. Parishioners from each parish will help each year with the single location.

Next year, St Joseph's Table will be at HC

- HC/OMOS are leading the Diocese in sharing/joining each other according to the DOR Task Force on Parishes.
- There will be a shared Lenten Mission 3/17 - 3/19 2024. The Mission will be "Finding God in the Change"
- It was suggested that the Parishes form a group to facilitate sharing

DIVINE RESTORATION

John Hayes reported that 9 people helped to get the surveys done at MOS. There are guidebooks and study guides available for the program.

The results of the surveys are here and Fr Coffas will decide when to release that information.

Some of the information indicates that the main times when the parish congregations meet is on weekends and the focus needs to be then - the Music, the Hospitalities and the Homilies need to address the sharing and Evangelization of the parish populations.

MEMBER FORUM

- K of C possible trip to Montreal Basilica in 2024. David Kometh and Ron Yancone will investigate
- We need to promote Youth Activities more. Church bulletin is not effective with youth - young people do not read the Bulletin.

- We can use the current Mens Club Activities Displays in the Greeting areas to highlight Youth Events. Events should be announced (Display/Pulpit) a week in advance. Confirmation classes are an avenue to get the word out about youth events.
- Donna Petrella and Cindy Lammes will look into a Bulletin board/Mens Club Display to highlight Youth Events
- Flock Notes are not active with the general congregation - especially youth.
- TEXTS may be better.
- Amy mentioned that Instagram Posts may be a way to spread info about Masses and Activities
- It was asked why we do not distribute the Precious Blood form at Communion. Fr Coffas replied that receiving in both forms is not universal and is undecided throughout the Catholic Church. It seems to be a holdover from COVID restraints.
- Father told us that the Host is *universally accepted* as a TOTAL reception of Christ as Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.
- It was suggested we consider having a kneeler or two for receiving Communion and aside from the need for special aisles etc, Father told us that the USCCB is on record as stating that they prefer the faithful stand while taking Communion.

CLOSING PRAYER

Fr Coffas led the group in a closing prayer after sharing wishes for a good Thanksgiving Holiday to All.

We closed the meeting at 8:05 PM.

REPORTS

Holy Cross School Report

Parish Council Update - November 12, 2023

We are fully staffed with the addition of Sr. Laurie Orman as the Dean of Instruction and Mr. Roger Youmas as the Student Advocate. These are unique positions with the Diocesan Catholic Schools and allow Holy Cross to provide a quality education for the students and a supportive environment for the faculty.
Enrollment: (203 total)

PK: 45 students

K - 6: 158 students

Kdg - 22

1st - 18

2nd - 17

3rd - 19

4th - 33

5th - 22

6th - 27

Updates:

The main office has been moved to better secure the school building.

We have made the necessary improvements to the heating system (new boiler) and the roof (on the "newer" part).

The 1st quarter has been completed and we are moving into the holiday season. We have two service projects for the holidays. We are decorating Christmas trees for the home and hospital bound and we have a family wreath project for others that may be alone for the holidays.

Our Music teacher will begin to lead the music at our monthly school Masses and the attendance at our monthly Sunday family Masses has increased from month to month. Our next monthly Family Mass is this Saturday at 5:00 pm.

We hope to have a school Open House during Catholic Schools Week which is the last week in January.

The school Christmas Concert, which due to capacity issues is only open to school families, will be Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 in the church.

Overall, the school is doing well and we continue to make efforts to connect the church and school through our school Masses and the events on campus that include the entire Holy Cross community.

Future Plans

We are working with the finance team to better secure the building with a security system and the locks have changed to better control access to the building.

In the next few months, there will be discussions on moving all school-related activities to the school building and moving from the convent.

The registration drive for 2024-2025 will start after the new year.

Catholic Schools Week will be from January 28th - February 3rd. There will be numerous events that will highlight the school, the parish and Catholic schools in general.

Father Wheeland Week which celebrates Father Wheeland and Holy Cross will be March 13th through March 18th. Event details coming soon.

CYO Update

The Basketball season has started we have 7 teams (2nd grade co-ed, two 3rd/4th boys teams, one girls team, two 5/6 boys teams and one 5/6 girls team)

The teams consist of Holy Cross students and players from parish families. The overall percent of players that are either students at Holy Cross or involved in Faith Formation at Holy Cross or MOS is about 90%.

Games start the first week in December and will be played in our gym and other school/parish gyms throughout the diocese.

Our 2nd grade team is developmental and will not have games but will practice the basics weekly leading up to an intersquad game in February.

TECHNOLOGY

Here is the report/update back from Greg Hubbell on Technology @ OMOS for our next Parish Council meeting.

Nothing new to share on the tech front at MOS, stable as far as I know. On the flip side, is there anything that needs to be done or requested....or any events in the upcoming months that have a need for audio,video assistance in the church or hall?"

Greg Hubbel

Thanks

Marc Boeh

*BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT
OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2023*

Statue of St. Bernadette & associated accent lighting was installed.

Many HVAC & plumbing repairs were performed. They included the adjustment of the boiler operating pressure release valve, spray foaming a ceiling pipe which was causing a leak in a staff office, shutting off rusted water valves causing a leak from the fan coil unit on the cemetery side of the Narthex & correcting problems with the church & rectory cooling.

Maintenance repairs were required for our elevator on three separate occasions in June, August and November. Vertical platform & switch issues were repaired.

Parking lot & cemetery road were sealed. Parking lot was striped.

Diseased plum trees & crabapple trees in the handicapped loop were removed by Bldgs. & Grounds team. A second crabapple tree was removed from the rear parking lot area.

Updates to the former Funtime room continue. Room was decluttered, walls are being painted, restroom & kitchen leaky plumbing repaired & a new commode was installed.

A parish Building Assessment and Open Project Status meeting was held on October 18.

A large, diseased silver maple tree, located in the cemetery, was taken down by Northwoods Tree Care.

Five toggle switches, which control the upper chandelier lights in the church, needed replacement.

Submitted by: Rob Weigel

Holy Cross Building and Grounds Committee Report

- . Holy Cross Campus Landscaping Plan
 - o Developed a new Holy Cross Campus Landscaping proposal and reviewed it with Father Coffas
- . New Holy Cross School Lower Roof
 - . Worked with a contractor to diagnose and recommend requirements for competitive bids to replace the Holy Cross School lower roof to resolve roof leaks
 - o Evaluated competitive bids received and recommended selection of the contractor bid that represented the best cost/benefit for Holy Cross Parish
- Holy Cross Campus Security
 - o Evaluated current Holy Cross campus security camera system
 - o Recommended security recording and camera coverage improvements
 - o Worked with Diocese to implement approved improvements
 - o Discussed Holy Cross School security plans

- Holy Cross Parish Center
 - o Reviewed electrical concerns reported Holy Cross Coffee Hour volunteer coordinator jointly with Father Coffas
 - . Frequent circuit breaker trips, a burnt electrical outlet, and insufficient electrical circuit coverage in the parish center area used during Coffee Hours for large coffee pot(s) and water heating kettle(s)
 - o Result was Father Coffas directing the Finance Director and Campus Maintenance Supervisor to hire an electrical contractor to evaluate these concerns and recommend remediation
- Committee Membership
 - o Two committee members have resigned
 - o Remaining committee members have submitted their required DoR Conflict of Interest forms

Liturgy Update HC

In October:

On Oct 1, we had a Pet Blessing at Holy Cross by Fr Justin. It was a beautiful service.

On Oct 8, we had a great turnout for Rosary Coast to Coast at HC

On Oct 14-15, Fr Bill began the Valley Silence, 15 minutes of quietness before Mass began, and the response was very positive.

In November:

The blessing of the OMOS Cemetery on Oct 31 after our 8am Mass.

We celebrated All Souls Day at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Adoration in the All Souls Chapel, and then at 5:30pm had High Mass with Bishop Matano in Christ our Light Chapel.

Nov 4th held the Liturgy of Remembrance Prayer Service at HC for all who have passed away between HC & OMOS.

Our Thanksgiving Service will be held on Nov 23rd at Holy Cross at 9am. Everyone will be asked to bring in a canned good or non-perishable food item for our 2 cupboards.

2 Young Musicians Concerts Nov 5 at HC and Nov 12 at OMOS.

In December:

In each of the Pews at HC & OMOS, we have Mass Order Pew Cards

On Dec 3 at the 11 am Mass, we will be welcoming our OCIA Candidates.

During Advent, we will be handing out 2024 St Joseph Missal Books for anyone that would like one.

The Liturgy Team is preparing for Advent and Christmas Services. Our Christmas services are as follows:

HC on Christmas Eve:

4pm & Midnight

OMOS on Christmas Eve:

4pm & 10pm

OMOS on Christmas Day:

10am

HC on Christmas Day:

9:30am

On Dec 31 Holy Family Sunday Masses as scheduled.

In January:

On January 1 Feast of Mary the Mother of God

8:30am at HC

10am at OMOS

On Jan 7 Epiphany of the Lord

Giving Tree

Brett Granville

As far as updates:

1. Finance Committee - there is no update as we are planning on meeting in early December.

2. Advent tree - we are excited to have the tree and stars ready for Advent.

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Thank you, Brett

Youth Report Leah Carrier HC

Previous report for summer was sent in sept 2023

But some highlights...Thursday morning miracles reflected on simple miracles we experience every day. Explored the stained glass windows. Made pillows to take to the animal service league in Irondequoit- where we read to the cats there. Also spent time with bunny and Guinea pig. September began our weekly gatherings on Sunday after 10am Mass. Our theme is Jesus take the wheel. We visited cobble creek farm and had a hay ride and enjoyed a beautiful fall day. We delivered over 85 pumpkins to share the joy of Fall. We are having a coat drive for the house of mercy. And a breakfast with Santa aka St Nick on Sat Dec 9 at Holy Cross Cafeteria. 8-11:30. With set up the Friday night before. It's a donation for Golisanos. Children's Hospital. We are going to see a movie journey to Bethlehem followed by a traditional Polish Christmas Eve. Four lucky parishioners won gift baskets made by caring parishioners wanting to do something for our teens. We are using this money for our January retreat for our four Greece parishes. In January we are having a blood drive lead by two of our Senior In zHugh school We are in the process of identifying and nominating High School seniors to receive the Hands of Christ Award. One of our teens is busy making 100 Gods Eyes to give to our children making the Sacrament of Penance on Dec 2 here at MOS from our Greece churches. We will also be doing a collection of stuffed animals in Feb 2023 for Children's Advocacy. March will be. Friday Lenten Soup Supper. Note. We had a blood drive scheduled for Last August but the Red Cross had people out sick and

didn't have enough manpower to do it. I'll let Fr Justin speak to the Youth program Ignite that meets once a month.

OMOS Youth submitted by Michael Giordano:

Sr. High Youth (grades 10-12) just completed a 5 session program called "Connected" - focused on themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

Youth Group (open to grades 6-12 but predominant grades 6-10) has had a very successful fall with several new youth attending; group meets 2nd Friday of month in addition to group activities with neighboring parishes (ex. corn maize). Youth have been very engaged and eager to attend!

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) delegation of youth from both OMOs & Holy Cross are traveling to NCYC (will be on the bus at the time of this meeting!) led by Cindy Lammes. The conference is held in Indianapolis, IN from Thurs Nov 16-Sat Nov 18 and the team will return early Sun, Nov 19. All are very excited for the experience and will share testimonials the weekend of Dec 9-10 at both OMOs and HC.

Ignite Youth Program (Fr. Justin will not be in attendance Wed to be able to speak on this) Program restarted in October for its 2nd year following the summer hiatus and has had significant growth (doubling in size!). We hosted 46 youth in October and 40 in November. Youth from various parishes throughout the Diocese have been in attendance, with some coming from as far as Avon/Honeoye Falls area! Hands of Christ nominations are currently being accepted for high school seniors through Nov 22.

Evangelization Report from Holy Cross

Submitted by Doug Escher

- High priority on our Divine Renovation program. Getting analytical guidance from Gallup. Hopefully I will give an update to Fr. Bill and the parishioners by the end of November.
- Nursing home volunteers are still at an all time high, but looking for more volunteers.

- Provided 20 American flags and personal cards for Veterans at local nursing homes.
- We have placed an outdoor library in hopes of inspiring good news to those looking for good news.
- Actively participated in The Rosary Coast to Coast.

IGNITE PROGRAM UPDATE - FR. MILLER

Ignite is a youth ministry program formed in October 2022 by Fr. Joseph Martuscello, originally reaching 9-12th graders. He seamlessly transitioned the lead role to me by effectively orienting me and inviting me to the final session. Last year it met twice a month, but we made the decision to meet monthly this year. All of the Charlotte/Greece youth ministers help as volunteers, as well as some parents from the parish. It has always met at Holy Cross, starting in the gym and moving over to the hall, then ending in the church.

It seeks to ignite the faith of youth by inviting them into a personal relationship with Jesus, and with each other.

It has three main components: sports/recreation, meal/companionship over the meal; Eucharistic Adoration with brief witness and the option for Confession

Some highlights from this year so far:

We added OMOS parishioner Greg Hubbel to the volunteer team.

We added Beth and Jon Jamison from St. Lawrence to the volunteer team

We increased the age-range from grades 9-12 to grades 6-12

We have had about 40 teens in each of the two sessions so far. This is significantly higher than the average attendance last year, perhaps because its less frequent offering makes it more desirable to attend when offered.

We are finding ways to manage that large number in the gym for sports/recreation time.

We have had approximately 20 students go to Confession each time.

We are utilizing two priests this year for Confessions.

We are trying new things like featuring guest speakers, but may need to not do too many new things, and stick with the model that has been working well.

In Christ,

Fr. Justin Miller

**The next meeting of Pastoral Council will be via ZOOM
1/17/2024 at 6:30 PM**

Minutes respectfully submitted to Parish Council by:

Tom McCall

Sec'y