

Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm at OMOS

ATTENDING: Amanda Lozy-Lester, Amy Mulcahy-Schmidt, Brett Granville, Donna Petrella, Father Justin Miller, Father William Coffas, Maryanne Sutton, Tom McCall, Tracey Ferris, Paul Vacca

ABSENT: David Kommeth, Donna Jacobi, Jonathan Stoklosa, Lusi Santangelo, Marc Boeh, Mark Tachin, Michael Giordano, Nancy Spoto

AGENDA:

1. Opening Prayer-Father Bill
2. Welcome Father Miller-Maryanne
3. Welcome Parish Council New Members Tracey Ferris and Tom McCall-Maryanne
4. **Pastoral Council meeting dates/frequency for 2023-2024 fiscal year-Maryanne**
 - Having Parish Council Meetings at 6:30 on Wednesdays.
 - Dates decided are:
 - 9/20/23 at 6:30 at OMOS
 - 11/15/23 at 6:30 at HC
 - 1/17/24 at 6:30 via Zoom
 - 3/13/24 at 6:30 at OMOS
 - 5/15/24 at 6:30 at HC
 - 6/5/24 at 6:30 at OMOS
5. **Election of New Officers, Vice president and Secretary**
 - Motion by Maryanne Sutton to nominate Amy Mulcahy-Schmidt as the Vice-Chair of Pastoral Council. Paul Vacca seconded the motion. Amy Mulcahy-Schmidt is Vice-Chair.
 - Tom McCall volunteered to be the new secretary, after no one else was nominated or interested. All were unanimous that he should serve in this role. Tom McCall will be the new secretary.
6. **Pastoral Reflections and Feedback Sought - Father Bill**
 - Fr. Bill wanted us to be proactive about our ministries and is asking everyone to help us out. He hopes this will continue what has been a steady increase of parishioner involvement and avoid the discouraging reality of seeing the same people do multiple jobs. Tom McCall mentioned that he is proactive about inviting new people to take up the gifts. Brett Granville raised the question about CASE training and suggested that we offer an in-person class so that we can promote compliance and not discourage people from participating on account of this training.
 - Fr. Bill wants to curb excessive talking in our churches before Mass, a pattern which has become a concern and led us to lose at least one parishioner. We have received complaints about this via the collection.
 - He suggests that we institute the following: 15 minutes before the Mass begins, we enter a "Valley of Silence" (cf. Psalm 23) where we gather around Jesus the Good Shepherd. The first week or two the priests would get up 15 minutes before the mass

Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm at OMOS

begins and invite us into this period of silence and reflection to speak to the Shepherd in the silence of our hearts. Then, in subsequent weeks the lector would announce this period of silence. He anticipates that eventually we would not need prompting, but that we could incorporate this into our culture. He wants to also avoid a “shushing” culture, which clamps down too hard on people who talk and become unwelcoming to them.

- Brett Granville asked about the music prelude, and it was clarified that we play music 5 minutes before Mass as an attempt to discourage talking before Mass, but it is no longer working and people simply speak louder. We will proceed as outlined above and publish notice in bulletin to prepare people.
- Fr. Bill wanted to invite feedback about the possibility of moving the St. Joseph’s Table to one location, instead of two. Amy Mulcahy-Schmidt suggested that we not move the event from Holy Cross, as it has a long tradition and is exceedingly meaningful for that community to not lose their event. Donna Petrella clarified that if we did not have this event also at Mother of Sorrows, some people would be disappointed. Fr. Bill will continue to consider feedback before making his decision on the St. Joseph’s Table particulars.
- We moved into an Executive Session briefly for a discussion.
- Fr. Bill advised us of various upcoming events, all of which are listed in the bulletin. He reminded the parish council’s duty to participate in such events by their attendance.

7. Committee Reporting Frequency for the year-Maryanne.

- Hard copy of the Committee Reporting schedule was passed out.
- Tom McCall agreed to be the one to provide the respective Buildings & Grounds Committee updates to our Pastoral Council before each meeting. Brett Granville agreed to be the backup for this role if Tom is unavailable on any given month.
- Brett Granville as an Ex-Officio member has agreed to be the one to provide the respective Finance Committees updates from Kevin Foy to our Pastoral Council before each meeting.
- Donna Petrella agreed to be the one to provide our one Liturgy Committee updates to our Pastoral Council before each meeting.
- Tracey Ferris agreed to be the one to remind principal TJ Verzillo to provide the Holy Cross School updates to our Pastoral Council before each meeting.
- Nancy Spoto was appointed by Maryanne Sutton to be the one to provide the Stewardship/Evangelization Committee of Holy Cross updates from Doug Escher to our Pastoral Council before each meeting.
- Amy Mulcahy-Schmidt agreed to be the one to provide the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) updates from Deacon Joe Palacios and/or Sr. Kathleen O’Connell our Pastoral Council before the appropriate meeting.
- Brett Granville agreed to be the one to remind Kate Granville to provide the Advent Giving Tree updates to our Pastoral Council before the appropriate meeting.

Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm at OMOS

- Maryanne Sutton agreed to be the one to remind Kathy Fennel and Brian Ward, representatives of our respective Food Pantries, to provide their updates to our Pastoral Council before the appropriate meeting.
- Maryanne Sutton appointed Marc Tachin and Marc Boeh to Contact Technology Reps Fred Amato and Greg Hubbel

8. Reporting deadline for committee's due week before meeting-MAS

- Please submit all reports to secretary by the Sunday before the Pastoral Council meeting to respect the Pastoral secretary's time.
- We chose not to discuss Newly create Google drop Folder, because we are awaiting a new Administrative Assistant before pursuing this project. It is hoped that with a proper administrator to oversee these links, all could view documents in advance of a Pastoral Council meeting prior to our meetings. This would put less of an onus on the PC secretary to provide all of these documents and will also cut down on printing costs.

9. Ways to unite HC church and HC school - Father Miller

- Our new music teacher will be developing a musical schola group of students to sing at one weekend Mass a month at HC. We are going to call this a monthly school or family Mass. We wish to bridge the cultural divide between the parish and the school.
- We are trying to make the church of HC the primary classroom of HC School. We are having religion class offerings in the church led by the priests, and we are having classes come to Adoration on Weds at church during religion classes.
- Our new music teacher will be developing a musical schola group of students to sing at one weekend Mass a month at HC. We are going to call this a monthly school or family Mass. We wish to bridge the cultural divide between the parish and the school.
- Sr. Laurie Orman, RSM is the new Dean of Instruction and helps significantly with our school's Catholic identity.
- Fr. Bill spent a significant amount of money this summer on the boiler and the roof of HC School. He celebrated the initial school Mass and is excited about the school. He will celebrate a Teaching Mass at the next school Mass.

10. Youth Representative Amanda Lozy-Lester gave her update on youth activities at OMOS

- There was a time of sports, a meal and a discussion on Scripture, and then some time in church for prayer which 15 pre-Confirmation youths attended.
- Sunday night there were 3 at a post-Confirmation youth group gathering at OMOS for a few hours discussing a PowerPoint that Cindy Lammes prepared.

Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm at OMOS

11. **Divine Renovation Coordinators to discuss this concept to the Pastoral council at the November Meeting-Father Bill**
 - A Canadian Roman Catholic priest wrote the book Divine Renovation which focuses on parishioner engagement to empower people to strengthen the parish by living their baptismal call to make disciples of others.
 - This will make our parish less of a sacramental filling-station, and more of a family of faith that can raise up a generation of new believers who also raise up new believers. Joe Pittinel is leading the HC Divine Renovation Committee and is launching an online Gallup Poll survey the weekend of 9/23-24, and Fr. Bill is excited to see the responses which will give us insight into the current spiritual health of our parish.
 - Tom Nassic and John Hayes will conduct the same survey at OMOS on 10/23-24. There will be information provided in-person those weekends to those who are not able to use the internet to complete their survey.
 - If someone reached out to the respective individuals above, they could complete the survey on their own timeframe (i.e., if they cannot be in attendance at Mass those respective weekends).

12. **Covenant Changes Consensus-Maryanne Sutton**
 - Maryanne suggested to select new members at the last meeting after name selection on Pentecost Sunday
 - This will help facilitate their onboarding to the Pastoral Council, so they are ready before our first meeting. Grace Hubbel will help coordinate this.

13. **New Pictures for Council Frame**
 - Previously Jenny Ertel took the photos or collated those photos which were submitted and then printed them off, and Donna Petrella coordinated.
 - Donna Petrella is willing to work with Lily Hubbel on this initiative and can receive these photos whenever members wish to provide them.

14. **Open Forum**
 - Maryanne Sutton encourages Small Group gatherings within the parish, as her personal experience was that people are more inclined to share what they are really feeling in smaller group settings. In a previous parish, without Small Group involvement, she really did not have the same close connections she now values.
 - Amy Mulcahy-Schmidt wondered about how the Divine Renovation can engage and re-welcome parishioners who do not attend Mass, but for whom we still have contact information. It was clarified that we have Easter and Christmas mailings that go out to all of the known addresses on our books.
 - Tom McCall asked about livestream data and engagement. Fr. Bill mentioned that the YouTube streamed Masses at HC (which occur a few times a week, though not every

Pastoral Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 pm at OMOS

single Mass) are not frequently viewed in real-time, but get high views after the fact, and these go across the world.

- At OMOS, we stream the 4p Saturday Mass on Facebook and he does not have data on views or our geographical viewers.
- Fr. Bill is beginning to invite people to come back to Mass at baptisms and at funerals. We also engage families at anointings and in various other ways. Sometimes this leads people to begin the process of an annulment, etc. Tracey Ferris who works at Wegmans regularly gets questions from parishioners who are curious about how Mass at our parish has been but are not yet resuming their attendance.
- Fr. Bill mentioned the homebound ministry outreach of Jennifer Lozy-Lester so that we could “bring the church” to those who are homebound.
- Fr. Bill hopes that we can have an open form-type discussion at every meeting to foster openness and sharing.

15. Closing Prayer-Father Miller

- Meeting adjourned at exactly 8:00pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 PM at Holy Cross