

**St. Mary Pastoral Council
February Meeting Minutes
(Amended)**

Date: February 12, 2014
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Place: Large Meeting Room 2nd Floor

Meeting Invitees

Pastoral Council members, Msgr. Michael Rose, Fr. Marcin Nowicki
Per Article VI of the Pastoral Council Bylaws: *All meetings of the Pastoral Council are open to all parishioners and members of the parish staff.*

Meeting Attendees

Pastoral Council: Marilyn Blanchard, Bob Doiron, Tom Estaphan, Jim Farrell, Jim Heald, Ellen O'Connor, Tim Rivard, and Susan Zybert

Parish Staff: Msgr. Michael Rose, Fr. Marcin Nowicki

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by Jim Heald, Chair of the Pastoral Council. The Council opened the meeting with a prayer offered by Tim Rivard. The December 2013 Minutes were read and accepted.

Thank you

Thank you to Marilyn Blanchard and her husband for the delicious cookies and to Bob Doiron for the wonderful Dunkin Donuts treats and coffee to keep the Council properly fueled for the evening's discussion and activity.

Council Check-in

- Bob Doiron suggested including the Rosary prayers (mysteries) and a list of the Ten Commandments in the Bulletin.
- Tom Estaphan confirmed that *Rediscover Catholicism* is the title of the book that will be made available to parishioners on Ash Wednesday and to families preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation. The books have arrived (500)! A bookmark will be printed that will feature Pope Francis and an appropriate passage to accompany a photo. The Parish Council may assist by helping to pass out the books following each of the Ash Wednesday Masses/services.
- Tim Rivard suggested providing a free copy of the book to the local libraries in the area.

Pastor's Update: Msgr. Mike provided updates on the following:

- Pastoral Council Page on the Website – needs to be updated
- Maura Goddard – is stepping down from the Council
- Fran Manella – has withdrawn from the Council (his term is up in June 2014)
- Filling out the Council – we will need to take action to fill out the elected Council

- Lent – begins on March 5th with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Lenten activities will be published in the Bulletin and announced at Masses.
- Parish Cluster Mission – The parish cluster mission will be offered again as a collaborative effort among St. Anne’s, St Mary’s and St. Mary of the Hills Churches. Fr. Manny Clavijo will speak on Monday, March 31 on The Joy of the Gospel. Fr. John Foley will speak on Centering Prayer at St. Mary’s on April 1. And Msgr. Michael Rose will speak on Taize Prayer at St. Mary of the Hills Church for the final evening of the Lenten Mission on April 2. The theme of this year’s mission is “Lord, Teach Us to Pray.” All sessions begin at 7 PM.
- The St. Mary Parish Fish Fry will take place on Friday evening, March 7. Thank you to all those who are working hard on this important event.
- St. Mary’s Day of Service – the Stewardship Day of Service is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 26th. Many thanks again to Kelly Paulina and all those who are working hard to make this another successful event. Spread the word!
- Placement of Homeless Families at Days Inn – Msgr. Mike provided an update on the status of the sheltering of homeless families in Shrewsbury at the Days Inn and discussed what it is we can do as a parish to assist this group of newcomers to our community. He also spoke about some of the limitations and challenges around providing assistance. The original group of forty families has now decreased to 28 families, comprised of 91 children and 48 adults. Terry Cassidy from SYFS is working hard to provide services. Msgr. Mike and Gina Kuruvilla are coordinating efforts with Ms. Cassidy and SYFS. Churches and volunteer groups are offering one level of support, while DPH and DMH are offering another. Kathleen Keohan and Hannah Kane are spearheading activities for this group. St. Mary’s is providing an off-site meal once a month. The Council can support the collection of toiletries that are filtered through St. Anne’s thrift shop and spread the word that the community is responding and how they are responding.
- Staff Changes – Msgr Mike announced that Paul Gannon will be moving to Seattle Washington on account of his employment with REI and that there will be a reception after the 5:30 PM Mass on Feb. 16 to recognize Paul for his extraordinary contribution to the St. Mary’s Parish community and for the gift and blessing he has been to the parish. The Council expressed its gratitude for his exemplary service in music ministry. It is our hope that someone will emerge to fill even a small part of the void that will remain due to Paul’s absence. A second staff change is the addition of [our friend & seminarian](#), Diego, who has been at St. Mary’s now for two weeks. He will be at the parish on weekends only. Diego is a seminarian and is studying at Clark University Mondays through Fridays.
- Small Faith-sharing Groups – Msgr. Mike spoke briefly about the emergence and re-emergence of small faith-sharing groups, such as the Moms Sharing Group, the Women of Grace group (coming soon) and a small support group for married couples. All of these efforts are part of the lay ministry movement and a response to the emerging need to connect with like-minded people and experience a sense of belonging. Lay people are talking about the need for this kind of connection and then making it happen.

Other Business

- Church Sign Project – Many thanks to Marilyn Blanchard for her research and investigation into the possibility of commissioning a “St. May’s Church sign” for the parish. Marilyn reported on what she had learned from Andy Clark, who created the temporary sign for St. Rose of Lima. The Council spoke about various options – including signs of different dimensions depending on zoning regulations and where the sign would be installed. Further, the group talked about the possibility of creating a sign that combines signage for the school as well as for the church. Marilyn distributed a one-page handout that bulleted some of the important considerations, including the material with which the sign would be constructed and the combination of both permanent and temporary features to the sign so that information that doesn’t change would be permanent and other non-permanent announcements or items could be displayed on the temporary part of the sign. The discussion concluded with the appointment of a small working group to consider this matter further and report back to the Council.
- Welcome Table – Seeking volunteers to cover the monthly welcome table. Tim Rivard and Ellen O’Connor will cover the table in April. Other volunteer sought for subsequent months!
- Capital Campaign – The Finance Committee will be drafting a report updating the status of the Campaign and making recommendations going forward.
- Generous estate gift – Msgr. Mike informed the Council of and expressed deep gratitude for a generous gift to the parish from the estate of parishioners. The Council also expressed its great appreciation for this generous gift.
- Thank you Tim Rivard for pointing out a recurring typographical error on the front of the Bulletin. It will be corrected.
- April 9th is the next Council meeting. The final meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014.