

St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

October 12, 2016

In Attendance:

Beyea, Dianne
Breen, Fr. Don
Carey, Pat
Carvell, Trinda
Drummond, Mavis

Glasgow, Mary Alice
Hache, Charles
Howe, Marilyn
Isaacs, Denise

Lawlor, Bill
MacDonald, Mike
Murphy, Dave
Stroud, Anne

Absent:

Arsenault, Sr. Mae

Ellis, Wendy

Johnson, Kayla

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pat Carey at 7pm.

As Sr. Mae was unable to be present, the opening prayer she supplied was led by Anne.

Pat welcomed new PPC member Mike MacDonald.

Following Pat's review of highlights from the September 14, 2016 PPC meeting, the minutes were approved on a motion by Denise Isaacs, and seconded by Charles Hache.

Chris Little gave a presentation to PPC about the Library Ministry. Please refer to document "St. Mark's Library". Following the presentation, a lively discussion took place. Other interesting library facts emerged including: of the six current Library ministry volunteers, three are original members from 1996/97; items were initially loaned for shorter periods than the current one month time limit; the catalogue was originally in the form of a binder with alphabetized entries, but is now in the form of a spreadsheet, thanks to the donation of a laptop computer by the Men of St. Mark's; a Library Open House was held in September and another open house is planned for February 2017 to coincide with the library's 20th anniversary; while the library was originally open following all three weekend masses, it is currently unable to open following Saturday mass due to a shortage of volunteers; the Library Ministry has tried offering "Read & Reflect" Lenten programs to raise interest; summer students have been a great resource; although all materials are clearly marked as the property of St. Mark's, many borrowed items have not been returned.

Mary Alice inquired whether the library at St. Mark's loaned materials to other parishes, and Chris stated that it does not. Bill stated that it was a good idea to establish synergies, such as using the library materials to facilitate a self-study religious studies course. Chris advised Council that library materials have been used by our parish bible study groups and Religious Education teachers. Charles inquired whether a list of missing titles was available. Dave asked whether e-mail could be used to notify borrowers that books were due and to advise them about new books available for borrowing. Older books that are no longer relevant have been donated to other groups, including the Peru Committee book sale. The Men of St. Mark's have generously assisted the Library Ministry by donating funds for the

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purchase of new books and DVDs. Mike suggested that the library remain open between the Sunday masses.

As with many ministries, the main issue for our library is attracting new volunteers. Suggestions by PPC members included: posting a list of the library's materials on our parish website, along with an ad for volunteers; promoting a "Pick of the Month" (Bill); book reviews on our website (Anne). Anne will prepare a DYK about the Library Ministry. The best time for the DYK to be distributed and posted to our website is around the library's anniversary in February.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

1. **"Did you know?" (DYK) Program:** Update by Anne Stroud: Anne explained that this initiative was adopted by the previous PPC as part of its priority to improve communication within our Parish. To date, DYKs have highlighted the Care & Concern, Funeral and Grief ministries and Parish Council. PPC agreed by consensus that our "Did you know?" (DYK) program will continue at regular intervals. "Did You Knows" are distributed in the form of bulletin inserts, as well as being available on the parish website. We already have material available from a presentation made to PPC in May by Helen MacDonald and Fran Hickmott about the Catholic Women's League. Helen has indicated that she would prefer PPC to hold the CWL insert until January (which is their recruitment month).

New Business:

1. **Designation of PPC members as liaisons with specific active parish ministries:** Anne Stroud. This item had been deferred from our September meeting due to time constraints. PPC were in agreement that PPC should proceed with this initiative. It is seen as yet another way of improving communication here at St. Mark's. While members of the various ministries in our Parish may approach any PPC member in person, or contact us through our Parish website, it is felt that ministries are more likely to provide updates to Council and ask for support if they have a specific PPC member designated as a contact person/liaison.

An updated list of ministry contacts was distributed and members were requested to review the list prior to our next PPC meeting, in order to select ministries with which it would be a good fit for them to liaise. Some match-ups will be self-evident, as many PPC members are also members of other ministries.

Council decided that our best approach is to send a letter to all ministry coordinators (via e-mail, if possible), then follow-up with personal contact by the designated liaison person. Mike suggested that the letter should be "friendly", and show our interest in what the ministry was doing. Fr. Don stated that the letter should make clear that we appreciate the work that the ministries are doing, ie. "We are grateful. You are important to us. We are here and listening." Anne will create a draft letter, which will be sent to all PPC members prior to our next meeting so that all may provide input.

2. **Invitation to a ministry Chair to speak at November PPC meeting:** Council agreed with Anne's suggestion that Helen MacDonald be invited to speak about St. Mark's Art & Environment Ministry. Helen had spoken to the previous PPC about the CWL, and was promised that she would be invited back to speak about Art & Environment. Dianne offered to invite Helen. Other ministries suggested for future presentations to Council included the Men of St. Mark's and the Mass Coordinators Ministry.

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- 3. Introduction of optional testimonials at PPC Meetings:** Mary Alice Glasgow. During her five years in diocesan religious education, Mary Alice has had many opportunities to offer talks which are walks through her faith experience, and has noted the impact these make on her listeners. Although we tend to associate evangelism with the Protestant faith, Pope Paul VI stated that "We are all to make disciples". Catechesis involves "knowing", while evangelisation is our "story". There are many tools available to document our faith journey. Mary Alice brought the book "A Well-Built Faith" by Joe Paprocki to our meeting, as an example. Mary Alice stated that telling your story is not threatening or demanding and is not like discussing church doctrine. It is an easy way to share the power of the Gospel message in a concrete way. She stated that this takes courage, but that the impact is profound.

Some discussion followed the presentation by Mary Alice. Charles mentioned that the Disciple Maker's Survey identified that our reticence in sharing our stories is a weakness and that there is a need to establish small faith-sharing groups. Fr. Don referred to Fr. James Mallon's "Divine Renovation" and to the Alpha Program. He saw "rich possibilities for the future". For example, St. Mark's parishioner Kathy Goudreau felt called to study a book entitled "33 Days to Morning Glory", and is planning to offer a six week prayer group focused on this book. Mavis spoke briefly about "What type of prayer speaks to you personally?" and Marilyn referred to faith-sharing in the RCIA program. Anne mentioned that Little Rock Scripture Study (LRSS) is a way to share your faith in a small-group setting. Pat was unsure whether PPC was the right venue for faith sharing, and asked if it could be combined with our opening or closing prayer. Anne suggested that since many PPC members have limited exposure to faith-sharing in the form of testimonials, Mary Alice could provide an example by sharing her testimonial at a future PPC meeting. Since Mary Alice is willing to do so, and Council were in agreement, Mary Alice will ask to be added to the agenda for a future meeting, when she is prepared to share her story.

- 4. Suggestions for future PPC initiatives?:** This item had been deferred from our September PPC meeting due to time constraints. Pat began the discussion by mentioning that Council wishes to continue building on what we accomplished last year. Our focus should remain on improving communication and establishing a youth group. We will also be adding ministry liaisons as a new initiative. Mavis spoke about the difference between Adult Formation and Religious Education. It was noted that there are currently no candidates for RCIA, and it was suggested that RCIA could instead offer programs to existing Catholics (in the absence of candidates). LRSS is an example of Adult Formation. Denise informed Council that some members of the Monday evening LRSS group are willing to offer a Saturday morning workshop in January, to help parishioners become more familiar with the Bible. Fr. Don mentioned that it is important to promote the formation of neighbourhood groups, which will gather in homes to pray together. There was no decision made about spearheading new initiatives at this time.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Marilyn Howe.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9 at 7pm.

Meeting will be chaired by Pat Carey. Minutes will be taken by Anne Stroud.

Opening prayer will be led by Dianne Beyea.

Closing prayer will be led by Bill Lawlor.