

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 2019

7:30 pm

Parish Library C103

1. Prayer Sean Moynihan
2. Formation Tom Pell
3. Review of Minutes
 - a. Moved, seconded, and approved
4. School Update Gordon Ruff for Kimberly Parker
 - a. Change (in administration) is hard but good
 - b. Enrollment
 - i. No change
 - ii. Inquiries for mid-year transfers and for next year
 - iii. Having tours and shadows
 - c. New Marketing
 - i. Halloween Cards
 1. Present families distribute
 2. Done by request
 3. Larger posters (11" x 17") available
 4. Considering it as a mailer
 - ii. Fall Advertisement
 1. Web
 2. Facebook
 3. Parish Bulletin?
 - iii. Outreach to those who left the school
 - d. Virtue of the month

- i. September is love and charity
 - ii. Donation of 1800 food items for the food banks
 - iii. Hurricane Relief Collection
 - iv. October is Patience
 - e. Paul VI, O'Connell visits
 - f. Living rosary
 - g. Mass with Moms on Wednesday (October 16)
 - h. Trunk or Treat on Thursday (October 24)
 - i. Newcomers Luncheon on Monday (October 27)
 - j. "It's Gonna Be a Good Year"
- 5. PTPO Update Kourtney Roth
 - a. Trunk of Treat Flyer
 - i. Ledo's Pizza Tent being sent up - no preorder needed
 - ii. Free DJ
 - b. Chipotle Night
 - i. Dining for Dollars
 - ii. November 19, from 4:00-8:00 pm
 - iii. Chipotle on 123 in Oakton
 - c. Craft Night
 - i. November 15
 - ii. Auditorium
 - iii. Pottery awaiting approval
- 6. Finance Sean Moynihan
 - a. Meeting rescheduled
- 7. Commission Reports:
 - a. Community Service: George McAndrews
 - i. ESL booming enrollment

- ii. Matthew 25 is active
- iii. McDowell truck to West Virginia going next Friday
- iv. Thanksgiving Clothing Drive planning underway
- b. Religious Education: Walter Gawlak
 - i. Jean Luppinnaci (SPELLING) is working the Adult Faith
 - ii. Things are going smoothly
 - iii. Transitioning to next season
 - iv. Strong community growth
 - v. Isiah Adult Bible Study Meeting
- c. Community Growth: Amanda Bradley in place of Betsy Zolper
 - i. Newcomers luncheon scheduled for October 20
 - ii. Pro Life Committee Baby Shower
 - iii. Bereavement Committee
 - iv. Alpha Update
 - 1. 600 meals through five weeks
 - 2. Lots of participation
 - 3. Getting planning
 - 4. Bread provided for by Great Harvest
 - 5. Attendees proving desert
 - 6. Next step?
- d. Worship Bob Lemieux
 - i. Special Masses
 - 1. All Saints: November 01
 - 2. Mass of Remembrance: November 05
 - 3. Advent
 - 4. Christmas: on a Wednesday, so confusion should be less
 - ii. Attendance

1. Counts during 3 weekends in October
2. Ongoing special counts done by the Ushers

e. Youth: Tom Pell

- i. Junior High
 1. Kick off with 125
 2. Good meeting, well attended
 3. Halloween Movie Night on October 23
- ii. High School
 1. Sunday night gathering

8. Old Business

- a. Fall Festival (Karen Asta)
 - i. Kelly; Heavy Lifting
 - ii. Went well, but attendance lower
 - iii. Cake Walk: Add more due to popularity
 - iv. Rides: Ticket count - Ramp Up, but track numbers
 - v. Good number of volunteers\
 - vi. Add ministry tables?

9. New Business:

- a. Newcomers Luncheon: Sunday 10/20 1pm
- b. Pastoral council elections
 - i. 2 weeks in November
 - ii. Recruitment before the end of October
 - iii. Volunteer table in the Narthex
- c. Mary Fiske Maneline Article
 - i. Post Election
 - ii. What does the council do?

10. Eyes and Ears

- a. E-mail and other electronic (“Fishing”) attacks
- b. Council Binder Sections 6 & 7 need to be updated
- c. December 12 meeting to move
- d. Laura Cooman is the new Director of Music and Worship

11. Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting ends at 8:45

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2019

REPORTS

Community Service

TO: ST. MARK PASTORAL COUNCIL

**FROM: GEORGE McANDREWS
SERVICE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2019

RE: SERVICE MINISTRY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019 MEETING

Blood Drive: The next blood drive will be conducted on Sunday, December 8, 2019 (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.). As usual, it will be held in the Cassidy Activity Center.

English as a Second Language (ESL): ESL registered 114 students for the Fall semester. This is a 34% increase over the Spring 2019 enrollment (85 students). The organizers attribute this substantial increase to their stepped-up outreach program through local church bulletins, local newspapers and foreign language publications in Northern Virginia.

Classes started on September 24. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. They will continue through December 5. The ministry has approximately eighty volunteers who fill a variety of roles – teachers, teacher aides, substitute teachers, and administrative aides, who assist with tasks such as outreach, registration, textbook ordering and translation.

Gift of Peace: The Gift of Peace delivers food donated by parishioners for a monthly meal at the Embry Rucker Family Shelter in Reston. There was a food delivery on October 3. The next will be on November 7. Each month, the donated food fed 48 homeless individuals.

Giving Tree / Adoption Ministry: The ministry will hold its 2019 planning meeting next week. The Giving Tree will be erected on the weekend of November 23-24. Gifts will be collected on the weekend of December 7-8.

Hot Meals Team (FACETS) / Hypothermia Shelter Program: The Hypothermia Shelter Program will again partner with Saint John Neumann parish to operate a hypothermia shelter in January 2020. They are working to find another faith community to assist them.

Matthew 25: During September and October, there were three collections. Food was collected for the St. Lucy Food Warehouse. Baby items will be collected this weekend and next weekend for A Woman's Choice in Herndon (as part of Respect Life Month). Food was collected for the children of low-income families in Fairfax, using a program called the Power Pack Collection. This is the third year that St. Mark has teamed with neighboring Muslim and Jewish congregations for this project. The items collected will be sorted, boxed and delivered on Sunday, November 3.

McDowell County: No report.

Sunday Sustenance: No report.

Social Action Linking Together (SALT): No report.

Thanksgiving Clothing Drive: The ministry is gearing up for this year's drive. They are making calls to charities to get orders, working out the logistics with parish staff, reserving the deliver truck and scheduling volunteer drivers to distribute the clothing. All are on schedule.

Religious Education

Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation Report

The emphasis of Religious Education is transitioning from planning and registration to Sacramental Preparation. First Reconciliation will occur on December 14 for our 2nd graders. First Eucharist will be received on the first two weekends in May. Confirmation will take place on May 14

Jean attended an In-Serve day last week on Ministering to Youth with Disabilities to determine whether *ST. MARK* should be offering Religious Education classes for the disabled. In the past, the parents have used resources that we provided them to prepare their children for the Sacraments, but the children did not usually attend RE classes.

The Isaiah Adult Bible Study is off to a good start with about 30 people participating.

On October 20 at 9:30am in the Gym, Dr. Doyle will be talking about "Salvation." He is the Theology/Religious Studies Chair at Marymount University.

Community Growth

October 2019 Community Growth Activities Report

Always Our Children: No October update.

Bakers for Funerals: Baking for a funeral on Thursday, Oct. 10th. This will be the first one since late July.

Bereavement Ministry: Our bereavement program is starting Sunday, 10/6, going thru 11/17, with a break for the holidays. We will resume in January. New registrations are welcome, email Sarah Kirk, sarah.blfound@gmail.com.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) -Mike Mayer with Xtralight is meeting with Dominion this week for details on rebate program. He will submit a revised lighting proposal shortly. Walt Grazer spoke on migration as a consequence of

climate change, September 22nd. Thoughtful discussion followed. RE classes studied St. Francis last week. Drawings will be collected from second graders with hopes of including them in a book for Pope Francis on the 6th anniversary of Laudato Si. Two CCH members talked to Sunday RE parents about Care for Our Common Home, the Season of Creation and St Francis last Sunday.

Christians in Commerce (CIC): No October update. The NoVA Men's Chapter of CIC continues to meet every Wednesday in the Choir Room at 0645 (Fellowship & Vittles) followed by Prayer, Praise Teaching & Sharing from 7-8 am.

Cursillo: No October update. Meets every Tuesday 12:30-1:30 in Jean Lupinacci's office for those who have already made a weekend. <http://www.arlingtoncursillo.org>

Ecumenical Bereavement Ministry through the Becky Love Foundation (BLF): The Grief Group continues on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. A letter was sent out inviting parishioners to the program, including a half day retreat coming up on 11/16 at the Morning Star Retreat, a new space in Great Falls, more info at www.turnerfarmhouse.org. The updated Bereavement resource guide was included in the letter.

Evangelist Ministry - Alpha: No October update.

Funeral Receptions: One scheduled October 10th with volunteers eager to return to service.

Knights of Columbus (Santa Maria Council): No October update.

Latin Group: Meets every Friday to study Latin. Led by Faith Roberts.

Le Cercle Francais: Continues to meet every Tuesday from 10 to 12 and converse en Francais.

MOMs Ministry: We are focusing on expanding participation in our events by having a table in the narthex for a weekend in October. Still holding our play date and study meetings. Planning to have a meal train for one of our members who is becoming a new mom in the next few weeks. Hoping to make it a standard offering.

Movie Night: The St Mark Family Movie Night presented **Aladdin** on Sept 13th. Approximately 150 adults and children enjoyed the movie, ice cream, popcorn and fellowship. Mrs. Kimberly Parker, our new school principal, said a few welcoming words to our movie goers, and also supported our event by announcing it in the The Latest Lion News, and in a PA announcement to the school children. Our next Family Movie Night, **Toy Story 4**, will be shown on Friday, Oct 11th.

Note:

Unfortunately, during the **Aladdin** presentation, the projector's illumination began to dim. When the projector was used a few days later by Alpha, it failed. After replacing the bulb, the projector still did not function, and we determined that it would be too expensive to repair. Bill Grossman proposed we get a new projector. Happily, we received a very good discount, and the new projector has arrived. It is a state-of-the-art Lazar projector, does not have expensive bulb to replace; and is capable of good illumination even in the afternoon.

Newcomers Committee: The Newcomers Committee has our fall Newcomers' Luncheon on Sunday, October 20th at 1:00pm. Please let the Pastoral Council know, we would love to have any of the Council members attend who are available to meet and mingle with the newcomers.

Pastoral Care Team (PACT): Several new homebound folks were set up, during the month of September, for weekly visits and reception of the Holy Eucharist. This is in addition to the 10 folks we've been helping this year and the weekly visits/Services at the Sunrise Retirement Home in Oakton.

Peace and Justice Committee (PJC): Sponsored talk with Care for Our Common Home by Walt Grazer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The shawl ministry continues its efforts to provide shawls for those who are ill or grieving. In addition we will have a table of baby blankets for the baby shower weekend at St Mark. We are starting hats and scarves for the homeless this winter.

Praying College Moms (PCM): June: October: Our annual PCM Care Package send-out to young adults, Moms gather, and send out over 200 healthy packages with spiritual inspirations. Order them for your away children, niece, nephew,

grandchild...and their roommates. This is one of the major events for our organization. Order forms are available now at www.prayingcollegemoms.org.

Pro-Life Committee: Diocese Respect Life Conference. Jody & Donna reported that the Palliative care speaker was excellent. **Fall Festival** - our table was very active and the kids seemed to enjoy answering our questions and our game and prizes. **40 Days for Life sign-ups September 21-22.** Starts September 25 until Nov. 3. **Baby shower in the Activities Center on Oct. 12-13 to benefit "A Woman's Choice" in Herndon.** The Pro-life group will hold the October Donut Sunday, October 12th together with the baby shower. UNPLANNED movie was supposed to be shown on Oct. 4 but has been rescheduled until 2020. **March for Life-** St. Bridget of Ireland parish will split the cost of the bus with us. The March is on January 24, 2020

Remembrance Ministry: The Remembrance Ministry sponsors the annual Mass of Remembrance on Tuesday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. Special invitations have been sent to all families with whom we have been in touch during the year. All in the community are invited to attend. The Remembrance Ministry is seeking new members, as we lost 3 of our 7 members this summer. We have added two new members and are hoping to hear from others after an appeal was made during the last M & M's coffee. We continue to work with the new Bereavement Ministry.

Senior Ministry (M&Ms): We had a good turnout for our Right at Home presentation and Conquer the Clutter at our After Mass coffee on the 2nd. Looking forward to having Barb & Joe Celio give a presentation of their trip to Jerusalem with Fr. Jack Peterson on the 16th. We are planning a winery trip on the 23rd to the "868" winery in Purcellville and lunch at the Magnolia Inn. (May be taking a bus or driving ourselves.) We have Mrs. Parker talking to us at our November coffee, and a trip to the Holocaust Museum on the 13th. Fr Joe will give a talk at our annual Thanksgiving Lunch on the 20th. Fr.

Small Communities of Faith: About 100 people enjoyed the opportunity to gather and celebrate community on September 21 at the Small Communities of Faith Reception after the 5:30 Mass! There will be a *Maneline* article about the SCofFs in October. The Small Communities of Faith are planning a Morning of Reflection for Saturday December 7th.

Soup and Stations: Paused until next Lent.

Welcome and Information Desk: No October update.

Worship:

Worship Commission (WC) Report - October 2019

Solemnity of All Saints and Mass of Remembrance. Planning is well underway for both the Solemnity of All Saints and the Mass of Remembrance. All Saints Masses are Friday, November 1st. Due to November 2nd falling on a Saturday, the Mass of Remembrance is Tuesday, November 5th.

Count of Mass Attendance. Two years ago the Diocese initiated an annual attendance count which takes place over three weekends in October. Last weekend (Oct 5-6) was the first weekend of the count; the next weekends are 19-20 and 26-27. The purpose of the count is to identify trends in Mass attendance across the Diocese. Ushers are accomplishing the count at each of the four weekend Masses, providing a total for the Parish and sending the information back to the Diocese through the Parish office. The trend from last year to this year is not yet available.

November and December Holy Day and Special Masses. Planning is also underway for the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Masses. This also includes the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec 9) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12). With Christmas falling on a Wednesday, the WC does not expect the scheduling challenges faced last year. Lots of work to be done!

Youth:

Notes for October 2019 Parish Council Meeting

Jr. High Highlights:

- The Jr. High Kickoff went very well last month. Over 125 youth (7th and 8th grade) attended. Thanks to the many volunteers for helping pull it off again. There were inflatables, pizza, photo booth and raffle prizes at the end. Towards the end of the night, a highlight video and PowerPoint presentation was shown about YM.
- Halloween Movie Night in the Youth Room on Friday, October 25th.

High School Highlights:

- High School Sunday Nights begin this Sunday. Once, sometimes twice a month, HS group will meet either in the youth room or off campus.
- High School RALLY on Sunday, October 20th at Bishop O'Connell HS
- Sarah Kirk is now the stakeholder for WorkCamp. I will be her mentor. St. Catherine of Siena parish has asked to join our group on this week-long event.

College Highlights:

- Yearly College Night is set for next June...June 17th. Last June's college night was very well attended.

Young Adult:

- Ben Porter is spearheading this group and is getting some interest on their FB page. I am emailing him Diocesan Young Adult activities for him to advertise on FB and the bulletin.
- Ben will be checking out venues for a possible Young Adult Ski Trip in February at WISP.