

Pastoral Council Meeting Final Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2022

CFC Room 103 7:00 pm

1. Prayer: Pam Burke
2. Formation: Pam Burke
3. Review of Minutes
 - Motion to accept, seconded, and passed.
4. School Update: Crystal Sheehan for Kimberly Parker
 - School is presently on Easter Break.
 - Staffing for 2023: Eight teachers and the assistant principal are not returning. Plans are underway for new hirings. Other positions available include a Full-time librarian, part-time assistant.
 - K-8 enrollment applications are similar in number to pre-covid years. There are openings for new students in some grades. Plans are to have two teachers for each grade, K-8. Preschool applications are also underway.
5. PTPO Update: Crystal Sheehan for Christiane Popperwell
 - Meaghan Molinini provided this report:
 - April 18th is Lion Laps! Raised \$60K (and possibly more as contributions are still being accepted). There is an array of prizes for participation in both the fundraising and the event. Expenses are \$7K. The Fun Run is scheduled for April 29.
 - Dining for Dollars: March's was held at Luciano's. April's will be at Ben & Jerry's.
 - PTPO Skating Night was a success.
 - Nominations for 2022-23 board and officers are being accepted.
6. Finance: Greg Ulses
 - Nothing to report due to absence from the Finance Committee meeting. Will cover two months during next month's meeting.
 - Pew removal status: Pews will be removed during the first week of July. All liturgies and activities will be in the Cassidy Activities Center. The pews will be moved to North Carolina to

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

be striped and refinished. The process is scheduled to last 6 to 8 weeks, so they should be installed in late August, early September at the latest. With the pews removed, the floors will also be renovated, from the third week in July to the second week August.

- The repairs to the sound system are in the pre-planning stage, with the goal to have the work also being done in the July/August timeframe.

7. Commission Reports (Questions or Discussion): Written reports received Tuesday of week of meeting

- Community Service: Theresa Croson
 - Tithing: 14K given in March to the two applicants: Just Neighbors (9K) and the Colemore Clinic (5K).
 - The Blood Drive was a huge success with 40 pints gathered. Walk-ins were so numerous that some had to be turned away due to overcrowding. Plans for the next drive will increase the capacity to let all those who want to donate give.
 - Matthew 25 successfully delivered six loads of food.
 - Volunteer bakers worked four funeral receptions last month.
 - Social Action Linking Together (SALT) is still working the Virginia General Assembly. A state bill ending solitary confinement and awaiting the governor's signature is one item on their list.
 - FACETS - The next hot meal delivery to the homeless is on May 16.
 - The Hypothermia group will not have any activity until late August.
- Religious Education: Andrea Kramer
 - No additions
- Community Growth: Betsy Zolper
 - The Mary Garden is growing well; with the 3rd graders having ownership as seen by their visits and drawings.
- Worship: Pam Burke
 - No meeting following the Triduum.
 - There have been 12 baptisms in the last month.
 - Note that there were over 1000 parishioners, guests, and visitors at the Easter 11:00 Mass and concurrent overflow Mass.

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

- Altar servers scheduling is still on shaky ground as this group is reliant on others to get them to the church and there are some family concerns. There is active recruitment and training. The departing head of the altar servers would like to pass the mantle on to a new head as soon as one volunteers.
 - Youth: Sarah Kirk
 - The Youth Ministry Living Stations received a large number of compliments for a job well done. It appealed to a large age range and a good sized crowd.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business: None
10. Eyes and Ears
- In light of Faith Direct and the fewer parishioners in the pews, is there a way of avoiding the basket fumble with baskets going in a variety of directions?
 - Use the second collection style baskets? Removes the sense of giving.
 - Use baskets with poles? Ungainly considering the length of some of the pews.
 - Remain the same? Let the ushers handle the basket confusion.
 - Seen from the adoration chapel: a man going through the gate onto the grounds and picking up trash around the area. Thanks to whomever is helping us out!
 - During the last Donut Sunday, some came after the 11:00 Mass and were unhappy as none available. Discussed that donuts after noon are lunch, not a snack.
 - Some problems hearing the homilies. Are written copies available? For selected Masses (maybe once a month at a specific Mass) a court reporter voluntarily transcribes the sermon so it is available on individual electronic devices (iPad or equivalent). Headphones that provide amplification are available by request in the usher's room. People may want to switch spots in the church, as there are some "dead zones" with the sound system.
 - ESL is still using distance learning, but the end of year party will be live.
 - Newcomers luncheon - RSVP if you have not done so (this Sunday April 24 after 11:00 Mass)
11. Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Next Meeting: May 12th

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

Religious Education Report for April 2022

SACRAMENTS

1. Baptisms: Currently, four children are scheduled for May 14, three for June 11, three for July 16, and two for August 13.
2. RCIA: Twelve new Catholics were welcomed at the Easter Vigil, including 7 Baptisms. Thank you to the RCIA team (Walter Gawlak, Pauline Hartnett, Iris Gil, Theresa Croson, Barbara Saladino, Mary Jane Altmiller), the sponsors, Kevin and Evelyn Flores, and Sarah Lundquist.
3. Eucharist: First Eucharists will be celebrated at all Masses on the weekends of May 7/8 and 15/16.
4. Confirmation: Rehearsal is May 22, and the Confirmation Mass is May 23 with Bishop Burbidge presiding. Additionally, two adults are in formation for Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More on Pentecost.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

1. There are 44 people participating in the *Romans* study via Zoom.
2. About 50 people participated in the *Forming Disciples in Mission* Evangelization workshop on March 26 here at *ST. MARK*.
3. Alpha on Sunday mornings has concluded.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

There are only two more Religious Education classes left this school year. The last class is on May 1. Attention then turns to planning this summer's Vacation Bible School.

SYNOD LISTENING SESSIONS

The Listening Sessions are complete. Crystal will forward the notes to the diocese by April 30.

RE COMMISSION

The Religious Education Commission has returned as a formal group of invited parishioners who represent a range of our formation offerings (children's, adult, SMCS, sacramental prep). The first meeting was held

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

March 22 to introduce members to the role of the commission and to each other. Jean Lupinacci looks forward to having this regular counsel to guide the work of religious education.

April 2022 Community Growth Activities Report

Always Our Children (AOC): No April update.

Bakers for Funerals: Two funeral receptions and two more coming up next week. Our bakers are terrific. Grieving families have been so very appreciative of what these ladies contribute to show how much they care about families losing loved ones.

Bereavement Program: The winter **Bereavement Program** ended on April 10, and we will start the next program on August 21. We will have a Summer Grief Gathering, Sunday June 12, 3:30 to 5 at Turner Farmhouse. **Sacred Sharing**, the St. Mark drop-in group, hosted by Ellen Murphy plans to start up in September, with quarterly meetings, 9/20/22, 12/20/22, 3/21/23 and 6/20/23. We hope to restart the **Grief Group**, our monthly grief support meeting, at Turner Farmhouse, details to follow.

Care for Our Common Home Ministry (CCH) – Creation Care Mary Garden – Need to confirm installation of stepping-stones with school and blessing with Fr. Pat. Saw several families taking photos at the Mary Garden on Easter weekend. **Adopt-a-highway** clean up April 23rd at 9 am. RSVP to stmark.cch@gmail.com, DC City Nature Challenge walk – April 30th, 10 am at Walker Nature Center. RSVP to stmark.cch@gmail.com.

The Care for Creation Network of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington (CCNCDA) is sponsoring a five-part webinar series as part of the Laudato Si' 7-year action plan. Nativity parish is hosting the third webinar – **Landscaping with Care** April 20th. RSVP to nativitycreationcare@gmail.com. CCNCDA has formed a working group to discuss how the diocese can participate in the Laudato Si' action plan.

Christians in Commerce (CIC) – No April update.

Donut Sunday – No April update.

Evangelization Ministry: The Alpha Team will be offering "Following Christ" beginning on April 16 via ZOOM. Following Christ is the Catholic version of Alpha. We plan to meet after Easter to plan for the Fall and Winter seasons. We will continue to offer Alpha as our primary ministry. And we would like to get back in the Activities Center like we started out.

Our Alpha Team is looking for a "Point Person", a person who will develop and implement a plan for developing small groups of people who have been through Alpha and those who have not yet been through the experience. Please pray for Alpha and those who don't know the Lord Jesus in a personal way!

Funeral Receptions: No April update.

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

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

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

MOMs Ministry: No April update.

Newcomer's Committee: Newcomer's Luncheon is planned for April 24th at noon, after the 11 am mass. Please extend invitation to the Pastoral Council! RSVP to Jess Osvarek - jess0725@verizon.net

Prayer Requests: We continue to receive many prayer requests that are sent out to our 150+ prayer volunteers. Bill welcomes new members to this group!

Peace and Justice Committee (PJC): Not meeting.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Our group met on April 12, 2022, we prayed for some members that are not in good health. Quinta and I are working on a narticle for the July-August issue of Maneline about our Prayer Shawl Ministry group. Bill Grossman, took some pictures of the group on Tuesday. In April, 5 shawls, 2 hats, 3 scarves, 1 hat and scarf set and 3 baby blankets were created.

Praying College Moms (PCM): The PRAYING COLLEGE MOMS St. Mark Organization will meet this month and in May, live, in C 103, for fellowship, prayer, and discussion. We will discuss from the book, "The Return"; how to kindly dialogue with your young adults about returning to their Faith, and to attending Mass; a concern many parents angst over once their children are in college ... and after college.

ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 7-9; there will be a **PCM SEASONAL ROSARY**, in the chapel, followed by fellowship and refreshments after the rosary. We will be praying for the success of over 600 young adults: for their end of year exams, their summer work/study/ internship programs, continued good health, for those working towards higher degrees, looking for work, and in the Military. We are thankful for St. Mark to allow us to continue to use their rooms for our monthly meetings, and this month, for use of the Cassidy Center for fellowship and refreshments.

The PCM organization is in the planning stage for a PCM Seminar with a special speaker at St. Mary's Church, Alexandria, in September. The PCM Parish meeting will break for the summer months, and resume again in September. Respectively submitted by, Frances Chamberlin Board Member of the PCM Organization
Pro-Life Committee (PLC): Seeking new chair.

Remembrance Ministry: The Remembrance Ministry continues to contact bereaved members of our community.

Senior Ministry (M&M's): On April 6 there was a M&Ms coffee with around 25 attendees. Our speaker was Lynda Rozell, a retired lawyer whose career was in Washington. She visits Catholic shrines and spoke of Mother Angelica from EWTN. Lynda had slides from the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in AL. We are visiting the Museum of the Bible in May to learn about the Shroud of Turin.

Small Communities of Faith (SCOF): No April update.

Welcome and Information Desk: No April update.

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

WORSHIP/LITURGY COMMISSION

Our April meeting was focused on the Triduum masses and working on those logistics. We spent the meeting coordinating staffing needs, fine-tuning the scripts and being sure all items needed for the masses will be in the required locations.

Nancy Novelly is filling in for Laura Cooman who is taking time with her newborn son, Felix! This is very helpful as Nancy is certainly familiar with our services.

We will look forward to our May meeting to review and discuss these services.

Youth PCU: March/April 2022

Middle School

- The March Youth & Family Mass happened on March 13th. The first dinner served in two years due to the pandemic. We had a small turnout, but all enjoyed! A couple volunteers from Care for our Common Home Ministry spoke on God's creation and using the SEEK App to identify plants and other life.
- The April Youth & Family Mass happened on April 3rd. A dessert instead of a full dinner was offered after Mass because of having it in the CFC Gym. Another small turnout however, Tony Lupinacci, Jean's son (a Fairfax firefighter & EMT) spoke to the crowd.
- Middle School WorkCamp will be at St. Leo the Great parish on July 10-13 with 4 other parishes.
- Steubenville Conference at Franciscan University will be July 15-17. We have three other parishes and Bishop O'Connell HS coming along with us on a big bus.
- NET Day of Reflection for 1st year Confirmation is Saturday, April 30th in the CAC (9 am – 7 pm)

High School

- WorkCamp is coming together with St. Thomas A Becket joining us. It will 8 youth overall, 4 adult leaders, 3 contractors and 1 nurse volunteer.
It will take place at the former Aylor Middle School in Winchester County from June 18-24.
- Bingo Fundraiser for WC was set for March 19th (St. Joseph's Day) in the CAC with a huge success. We nearly made \$1300 after costs were taken out!
- Final Mulch Orders for WC – 1488 bags . Pickup for mulch went fine with Scouts helping us. Mulch Spreading went well with 4 customers (about 300 bags) wanting their mulch spread. Next year, pickup and spreading will happen the same day!
- World Youth Day in Portugal in July 2023. One possibly two families interested and will pay deposit soon. Hope to get my two God children in by June.

College / Young Adults

- Tom Pell and Courtney Earl are taking the reigns as volunteer leaders and continue to develop activities thru the St. Mark FB page.
- Upcoming events will still be emailed my way on a monthly basis from the Diocese.

CYO Sports

- CYO Track and Field has 52 youth. Practices will be Sunday afternoons at Bishop O'Connell HS, Wednesday afternoons at St. Mark and Saturday afternoons at Nottoway Park. A championship meet is scheduled for May 14th at Bishop O'Connell HS.
- CYO Volleyball start practices continue thru May 13, (M-W-F). 20-23 youth have registered. One 7/8 grade team and two 5/6 grade teams. Games will be on played on Saturdays (at other parishes due to rules of poles in the ground vs on weights) and practices are closed for Holy and Easter week.

Scouting

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.

- Closely working with Todd Lundquist and Phil Root with Scouts and leaders to involve them more in the parish youth activities. They helped spread mulch on the parish grounds on March 26th.

St. Mark Pastoral Council providing Father Pat with knowledgeable and prudent consultation by investigating thoroughly, reflecting deeply, and formulating practical conclusions to pastoral matters.