

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Pastoral Council

January 7, 2015

Notes

Attending: John Glancy, Fabiola Aguilera, John Flaherty, Fr. Chip Hines, Senior Deacon Mike Iwanowicz, Mary Herx-Morrill, Kerry Payson, Claire Ramsbottom, Kate Mason, Jeff Bloechl, Dom Bettinelli, Marty Murphy, Migel Cura, Carol Roberto, Ann Marie Rosa (note taker)

Reflections on the Christmas Liturgies and the new Christmas Mass schedule

- the 9:00 PM mass was missed by many
- neither of the 5:00 PM masses were packed -- as in previous years
- next year let's have one 5:00 PM and add the 9:00 PM mass back to the schedule
- the 9:00 AM Christmas mass was not full, but that is typical
- 11:30 AM mass was packed, again typical
- the offertory level was the same as last year, yet with fewer masses

The Blessed Sacrament Pageant was not well attended by OLOS or St. Mary's. We should publicize this more next year.

The OLOS Adult Choir was down in numbers this year. Probably because of the transition to the new director.

Topics to discuss when brainstorming about the joint PPC during the joint meeting on January 21

- size
- length of term
- attributes
- part of the planning committee?
- how structure / run the joint PPC meetings
- communications plan between the PPC representatives and their parish
- what about the heads of commissions, currently they are part of the OLOS PPC

On January 21, each PPC should sit together, and then mix during the discussions

Recaps from Fr. Paul Soper at recent PPC training

Review the nine year collaborative journey. Growth takes time.

- One year to organize
- One year to write the plan
- 3 years to execute the plan
- Years 6 through 9 reflect and re-fine the plan
- 10th year – really clicking
- Year 40 – all parishes fully staffed with clergy. No more need for a collaborative

Review the parish collaborative plan journey

- Written by a writing committee composed of the Pastor, one or 2 staff, 2-3 parish members (one for each parish) and any other key stakeholders
- They must come with no agenda
- The vision is first outlined followed by the writing of the plan
- The joint PPC calls for accountability of the parish plan

Six month review of the collaborative:

Sample of questions AMR is getting. Many are easily answered, but what if others have similar questions but aren't voicing them? Communications & connections common themes.

1. Did the weekday mass schedule change? When are weekday masses at the other parishes? Can we list them in the bulletin? Can we hold an evening mass one time a week?
2. What is the responsibility of the PPC to communicate to the parish? Can they be more proactive and visible? Where are they listed? How do we contact them?
3. If something similar to a no-show priest (Jan 1) happens again what is the protocol? Is there a hotline we should call to alert someone?
4. How are the priests assigned to weekend masses? Is it balanced? We'd like to get to know them all.
5. If I call the OLOS rectory with an emergency, who checks the messages? How often? Is there another number I should call?
6. Do we post PFC minutes to be transparent about the sharing of costs? Are the Annual Grand Collections kept separate? How are collections compared to last year at this time?
7. Is the 7:30am mass ever coming back? I miss the serenity and community. The 8:30 is too noisy.
8. Have/will sacramental guidelines change at OLOS because of the collaborative? Are they posted?
9. Can a priest have his office at the OLOS rectory, so clergy is on campus every week day? Maybe have them rotate? Can someone be around on weekends too?

Our discussion

- Let's have a Town Meeting. Ann Marie will put together a working committee to schedule, plan and run it. We can mention it on the Lenten mailing card
- Let's consider having a Town Hall twice a year
- Fr. Chip does try to equally assign the priests to all 3 parishes. Its logistically difficult. Sometimes schedule conflicts may create an optic of unbalance. Not intended. Fr. Chip also works to make sure Fr.'s Clooney and Spicer are on the schedule at the request of the parish, which does limit the exposure of the 3 parish priests to our parish.
- Assigning a priest to an office at OLOS did not seem to be an option
- a new phone system and the new website, both available mid Jan, should help with some connectivity challenges

Parish Assembly / Mary

- scheduled for February 28/March 1
- the theme is evangelization
- speaker/facilitator's Sr Rosemary M.
- we will breakout by grade
- still looking for some discussion leaders

Other updates

- the turnout at the coffee hour's are good. Having groups assigned to run them seems to work well. The Service Center at the coffee hour is not used much, but it could be stocked with more items
- we recently registered 5 new families
- the video about our parish is still being worked on
- Dom would like to wait until the parish plan is in place before developing a communications commission
- the new website and phone system will be announced through the bulletin and weekly newsletters
- the 250th anniversary of the town will involve all houses of worship in the celebration. More to come