

## Our Lady of Sorrows – PPC Minutes

November 4, 2015

Present: Fr. Vinnie, Ann Marie Rosa, Jim Spoto, Leo Bernotas, Kate Mason, John Flaherty, Teresa Coda, Mary Herx-Morrill, Fabiola Aguilera, Mike Jaillet, Owen Devlin, Carol Roberto, Nigel Timothy, Edward Poole, Mark Dudziak, John Glancy

### **New PPC Members**

The PPC recognized three new members to the Council: Edward Poole, Mark Dudziak, and Joe Watson

### **Finance Update**

Jim Spoto acknowledged his return to the PFC as Chair. He noted that Commitment Weekend was November 7 and 8. Hopefully there will be a strong response. He said the PFC had decided to delay the parish Annual Collection until December 6 so as not to conflict with the Commitment Weekend.

He presented the PPC with a thorough financial summary as of September 30, 2015.

In regard to the offertory, 1Q FY16 is down 2% from FY15. September offertory is up 5% in line with budget. The Council discussed Parish Pay (subject to 5% commission) versus the benefits of on-line banking (no commission). Helpful metrics showing Mass times versus offertory collection were shared and may be useful in the future for Mass schedule planning.

It was noted that the enrollment numbers for Religious Ed for Grades 1-10 have stabilized, but are decreasing for pre-K. It was also noted that the monies required to run the parish per week which historically have been quoted as \$11k, will be adjusted down to \$9.5k to give a truer picture of costs/budget for the fiscal year. This will be captured in the weekly bulletin.

The PFC is hopeful for a 5% increase in the parish's budget.

### **PPC Support Activities**

It was announced that on November 8 the Coffee Hour after the 8:30 Mass would be specifically recognizing new parishioners to OLOS.

Also, on Nov 22, the town of Sharon Interfaith Thanksgiving Service would be hosted by OLOS.

It was recommended that these dates and others be put on our calendars and played up by the PPC (and attended where possible) to ensure strong participation.

### **Outreach and Evangelization**

In line with the Council's active dialogue from the last PPC meeting on outreach, strengthening the parish, revitalizing ministries, and identifying new ministries, and bringing more parishioners to OLOS, the following topics were discussed.

Faith Formation Commission: Mary shared that they are eager to get more members on board to supplement the existing half dozen parishioners who make up the team now. Ideally candidates

would come from a variety of generations and perspectives to better identify the core mission of the Commission and sense of priorities.

Christian Services Commission (CSC): noted that important work is already underway by this Commission. Question arose if the CSC could expand to take on more? What would be needed? Is there a link to the social justice interests of the Parish e.g. the CSC is serving the poor, but are we also able to address the root cause of homelessness? A review of other parishes countrywide show that often the makeup of this type of Commission is half service and half social justice. It was noted that Teresa and Youth Ministry have a lot of successful service programs in consideration of the confirmation program. While intended for the youth of the parish, how can these potentially be broadened to include adults too? How do we expand to include the skills and interests of all parishioners e.g. what are we asking others to do in regard to service? Council discussed the potential for a service theme for the year and gearing a variety of programs and service activities around this theme. PPC recognized that social justice demands a mature level of thought and dialogue, but the desired themes and intent are tied together to service.

Other potential commissions touched on were: Hospitality Commission, Liturgy Commission, and an Interfaith Commission. The Council agreed that for each of these there needs to be consensus on what is the ability of any such commission to address the key focus of the parish which is to both retain and attract new parishioners to OLOS.

The consistency of the parish's message, liturgy, and "theme", plus strong word of mouth on OLOS's success may be the best publicity to promote the strengths of OLOS. To that end, it was agreed that the Council would use the next December PPC meeting to push on the idea of creating a Liturgy Commission. What could, should such a Commission do, how would it be structured? It was noted that Brandt Henderson from the parish might be able to share his thoughts and perspective on such a Commission given his experience. Ann Marie will contact him. Kate Mason also offered to share the legacy Mission 2010 materials to see if these could be tapped to foster ideas for this Commission. All PPC was tasked with coming to the table with ideas for a Liturgical Commission for our next meeting.

## **AOB**

In regard to the Music Ministry, Fr. Vinnie was pleased to announce that Allen del Rosario has been hired as the new OLOS Music Director. He joins us from California where he has had a 13 year career. He likely will join just before Advent.

Fabiola encouraged all to "like" the OLOS Facebook page to promote it and shared that there is interest in redesigning the OLOS webpage to make it more inviting.

Fr. Vinnie communicated that a replacement for the retiring Chris Muldoon as OLOS has been found and will be communicated later. A retirement party for Chris will be held in the second week of January 2016, after the 4:30 pm Mass.

John Glancy