

Minutes of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

February 6, 2013

Present: Fabiola Aguilera, Jackie Baldino, Leo Bernotas, Jeff Bloechl, Margie Cittadino, Fr. Scott Euvrard, Ralph Generazzo, John Glancy, Deacon Mike Iwanowicz, Kate Mason, Claire Ramsbottom, Ann Marie Rosa.

The meeting was called to order at 7.30 pm, and began with an opening prayer.

The agenda contained five main items.

1. Feedback on the OLOS website

J. Baldino reported the site was launched in September 2012, and it to be updated as often as possible. The site uses e-catholic software. It was proposed to link this to google analytics, if we can find someone able to do this. It was noted that the old website it still up, but does have a link to the new one. In general, the website is found to be easy, user-friendly and attractive. The parish's weekly newsletter is linked to the website.

It was agreed to add biographical notes of the staff to the website, perhaps a section on "volunteering," and an easily located passage to the minutes and actions of the PPC, etc.

2. Youth Commission's Facebook site

Kerry Payson asks that we all join in an effort to get more people to "like" the site.

The facebook site is linked to the parish website.

It was proposed that we include the QR code for the site in our parish bulletin, so that people can scan the code and thus be taken directly to the site

It was proposed to ease the interface between this site and the parish facebook group currently led and managed by Fr. Scott. This group is limited to registered members. Fr. Scott would give this some more thought.

It was proposed that we also add links to other Catholic groups in the area and beyond.

3. Collaborative

Fr. Scott reports that he and Fr. Tim (Blessed Sacrament) recently had dinner with Fr. Delay (St. Mary's) to discuss our collaborative, but this did not result in any significant positive movement. There ensued a discussion of other, less formal openings for discussion with St. Mary's. It was observed, for example, that St. Mary's does have a Spanish-language community interested in meeting and working with Spanish-speaking members at OLOS and BS.

It was reported that the music directors of OLOS and BS are working together on a liturgical music program for Lent. Pentecost (May 18) has been set as the date for a joint PPC day; ideally, this could coincide with a collaborative musical event.

It was noted that if the Archdiocese issues guidelines for non-Phase 1 parishes to explore their collaboration, there may be more explicit interest from St. Mary's.

4. Lenten activities

Programs for activities at OLOS and BS have been circulated. Both parishes plan a variety of activities, and of course share the Parish Mission set for 3/18 and 3/19.

Flyers, prayer cards, etc., on the occasion of the Parish Mission will be made available at the parishes soon. Announcements will appear in the bulletins.

We are still in need of some support: on 3/18 we need help with the social, ranging from the organization of food for the event to clean-up, etc. Sr. Nancy plans to have two parables acted out; we need a reader, actors, etc.

A brochure on the Parish Mission was provided to each member of the PPC.

5. Proposal of a "Parish Life" commission

The idea of a "Parish Life Commission" was proposed in order to better insure oversight, development and communication between existing programs at OLOS. A more organic approach to the work of and relationship between programs would also generate a greater sense of community, so that for example when a family's children have finished that primary stage of formation the entire family would still feel called to participate in the full life of the parish.

Such a commission could provide added stimulus to programs that sometimes languish, but also propose new programs when new needs or new interests arise.

We would need a chairperson and a team, all of whom would be distinct from the PPC (or with some overlap?) but would work closely with the PPC.

There was some discussion of a need to carefully define the role and responsibilities of such a commission, and to distinguish them from what other committees address.

There being no Other Business, the meeting adjourned shortly before 9.00 pm, following check out and a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Bloechl.
March 4, 2013