

PPC Meeting Minutes

April 2013

In attendance: Jackie Baldino, Margy Cittadino, Miguel Cura, Mary Alice Dowdell, Carol D'Souza, Scott Euvrard, Ralph Generazzo, John Glancy, Mike Iwanowicz, Kate Mason, Claire Ramsbottom, Carol Roberto, Ann Marie Rosa, Jim Spoto

Feedback from Easter Triduum:

-General: Attendance seemed to be up, color mailing was great, as was the program for the Triduum, the set-up in O'Connell Hall was also better. Overall, everyone expressed that the Triduum was a powerful and moving experience.

-Holy Thursday: Described as moving, great way to start the Triduum, seems like there's been a cultural shift toward more people getting their feet washed. Suggestion: Explain who's carrying up the oils as they're being carried up.

-Good Friday: Switch to all sung parts may not have conveyed the power of the words; the high-pitched tones were hard to hear. The timing of the liturgy seems to work out well by being in partnership with Blessed Sacrament. Suggestion: Have Stations of the Cross on Good Friday in addition to liturgy.

-Vigil: Music was wonderful.

Financial results through February 2013 and initial thoughts on the next parish budget (Jim Spoto):

-See Jim's document for full report.

-There has been a favorable variance on income.

-Increased offertory campaign: Offertory has increased by almost 20% since the campaign, which has surpassed expectations. We have made-up ground since the 2008 offertory.

-Annual collection: We're on track to meet our goal, although the increased offertory campaign may have only slightly impacted the annual collection.

-Up for discussion: Should we disclose our entire financial report to the whole parish. Some concerns were expressed about how parishioners will perceive our savings, especially in light of the increased giving campaign. However, the suggestion was made to frame our savings and income as a positive outcome of the generosity of our parishioners ("Thanks to you, we're a healthy parish.").

-Next year's budget won't be impacted by entering into the collaborative (if we're chosen).

Collaboration update:

-Religious Education leadership: Announcement that Jackie Baldino will serve as the Director of Faith Formation for both Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and Blessed Sacrament Parish next year.

-May 19th collaborative event: C3 decided against combining the joint PPC prayer time with the collaborative music event. Claire will send out potential dates for the joint PPC meeting (May 18th or June 8th).

-Claire explained the staff discussion concerning the goals of the collaborative committee and how they should measure their success over the next year. The staff wants to focus on identifying our identity as a parish. This will provide insight on where it is appropriate for the parishes to collaborate.

-Launching adult and family service: The first project will be through Habitat for Humanity. Even though participants must be 18+ to participate, younger members can help by making lunch for the volunteers.

Lenten Mission:

-Approximately 160 attended at Our Lady of Sorrows, and 200 attended at Blessed Sacrament

-Mary Alice and Kate expressed the need for two more people to be involved in the planning process for next year's Lenten Mission.

-Suggestions for next year: How can we build community through the Lenten Mission? Mary Alice suggested hosting a continental breakfast. However, we should try to find presenters who can effectively weave community building into their presentations.

Christian Services Commission :

-The commission is looking for new ideas so that they can continue to change as the parish changes. **The PPC members committed to thinking and praying about new ideas for the commission, and we'll discuss this at the next meeting.**

-They expressed the need to have more members. There are 7 people on the commission right now.

Assessing our music resources and next steps:

-Susanne would like to put a group together to read "Sing to the Lord" and begin deciding how we should proceed with our weekend liturgy music resources (new hymnal? weekly worship aid?)

Boosting parish presence at Sharon civic events:

-PPC members committed to thinking about how we can get more involved in Sharon civic events, like the Square Jam, July 4th event, etc.

Joint RCIA endeavor:

-Our Lady of Sorrows has had a few people come forward for the RCIA process over the last couple of years, however we do not have a structure or volunteers in place to easily prepare them. Blessed Sacrament has a similar challenge. Carol and Jackie committed to attending a conference in June called "The Initiation Experience: Beginnings." We're hoping that someone from Blessed Sacrament will come as well so that we can collaborate on this program.

Spanish speakers social:

-Fabiola and Marie Martin of Blessed Sacrament held a Spanish speakers social for both Our Lady of Sorrows parishioners and Blessed Sacrament parishioners on Saturday, April 6th. 14 people were registered prior to the event.