

Our Lady of Sorrows – PPC Minutes

January 2, 2013 Meeting

Present: Fr. Scott, Ann Marie Rosa, Ralph Generazzo, Mary Alice Dowdell, Claire Ramsbottom, Miguel Cura, Deacon Mike, Carol d'Souza, John Glancy

Review of Advent / Christmas Activities

Feedback in general was very positive, particularly regarding:

- a. Advent Workshop. Very well attended and engaging. Holding this outside of Thanksgiving weekend may have been advantageous and should be considered in the future.
- b. Evelyn House party. Very good turnout. None of the tags from the giving trees for Evelyn House and My Brother's Keeper were unclaimed; however there was some confusion on when gifts were to be returned despite clarity of instructions. Might make sense to have all gifts returned at the same weekend?
- c. Mass at the nursing home. Very strong, intergenerational attendance.
- d. Christmas Masses well attended. How to better reach out to this unique congregation? How to be more welcoming? Consider reintroducing Christmas pageant; perhaps hold at Epiphany to close out season?

Broad discussion on how to foster a better sense of community (coffee hours, greetings at Mass, activities geared towards young families, etc.)

Collaborative Discussion

Feedback on December 5th joint PPC meeting with Blessed Sacrament parish. Overall positive. Would it have been more fruitful to break up into parish groups to assess strengths? Should strengths be revisited to validate additional opportunities? Group felt a framework of who does what in each parish, what is similar, what is not, would be beneficial.

No update yet on Archdiocese's decisions regarding which collaboratives have been chosen for the first phase. The Archdiocese has, however, recently affirmed that the OLOS, Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary's collaborative has been set. This should help things move forward and our approach will reflect what phase the Archdiocese ultimately chooses for our collaborative.

Preparing for Lent

General discussion on liturgical and religious ed. activities for Lent which is six weeks away. Labels are for Jars campaign to be continued.

Mary Alice updated the team on the preparations for the joint Lenten mission with Blessed Sacrament. On March 18 OLOS will host the evening which will involve Sr. Nancy Sheridan leading the night's discussion and March 19, which Blessed Sacrament will host, with Raymond Kemp, S.J. leading the discussion. Youths from both parishes will be involved. Help needed for the OLOS post reception, which will be kept simple.

General discussion on potential Lenten activities (Lenten Mass, stations of the cross followed by soup). Fr. Scott to discuss with OLOS staff.

Outstanding Items from June retreat

What should focus be of Communication / Social Commission. Recognition that there is a need for strong, lay leadership at parish level, particularly in light of collaborative.

Team discussed:

-How are people to meet—become more social?

-How do you meet the needs of adults looking to raise children as Catholic?

One way forward is to come up with a description of the commission: what are goals, mission, etc. Ann Marie offered to draft and share with team.

With perspective to the collaborative:

-Need a sense of liturgical identity. How does parish retain uniqueness and still grow?

-What is our profile? We need to figure out our approach.

Liturgical Commission. Urgency will be driven by what phase of the collaborative we are selected for by Archdiocese---if a later phase there is more time.

Discussed the benefit of an on-line directory of parishioners, rather than traditional hardcopy which is costly and quickly out of date. 2006 was the last time OLOS directory was done. Would facilitate outreach and could be easily updated as necessary once established.

Discussed potential June 2013 retreat for PPC members and for prospective PPC members. Look at May 2013 for a joint PPC meeting with Blessed Sacrament. Claire will send out prospective dates to team.

Other

Fr. Scott shared that Joe Favazza had been selected by the Archdiocese for a two-year term as a member of the Archdiocese Pastoral Council. The Council meets six times a year and Joe will represent our vicariate.

Discussed what approach to take with the Feast of St. Blaise on February 3 and what might be appropriate re: blessing of the throats.

-Respectfully submitted by John Glancy