**St. Maria Goretti Parish**

**Pastoral Council Minutes**

April 6, 2016

Members present: Father Andrew Brownholtz, Deacon Peter Niche, Cheryl Ryan, Douglas Smith, Ron Boak, Janna Kerr, Maria Richardson, Meg Szewczak, Dave Mazeroski, Kim Staudt, Linda Hudak, and Charles Amuso. Excused: Huynh Kim Saner, Bic Nguyen.

Father Brownholtz opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Pastoral Plan Report** - Janna Kerr summarized the parishioner responses to the request for comments on the proposed Pastoral Plan. As a result, some minor changes and some editorial changes were made. The Pastoral Council voted unanimously to approve the Pastoral Plan and recommend it to Father Brownholtz for his consideration. Janna Kerr and David Mazeroski will work with other Council members to roll out the final Plan to the parishioners.
2. **Parish Raffle** - Kim Staudt announced Annual Parish Raffle tickets will be mailed to all parishioners soon. The drawing will take place on June 5th at the Donut Sunday following the 11:30 a.m. mass. Kim reported that the goal for ticket sales is 11,000 for the 2016 raffle.
3. **Eldercare Proposal** – Kim Staudt reported that St. Maria Goretti Parish will participate in an Archdiocesan Eldercare Program that will provide advice and assistance to parishioners only who need help regarding their ability to remain in their homes as infirm or elderly persons to enjoy independence and maintain a quality of life. There will be no cost to the parishioner for this service. The parish will support the program at a cost of $1,000 per month. Our parish may partner with other parishes, which, if they contribute, will enable their parishioners to participate. This will be announced to the parish in the next few months.
4. **Family Faith Programs** – Maria Richardson reported the following:
   1. The Family Faith Forum has 30 families participating and has generated very positive feedback.
   2. The Sacramental Scavenger Hunt was also very successful this year.
   3. The Theology of the Body Program has 25 junior high level participants and many high school level young people participating as leaders.
   4. The Bible Study Program also has many junior high level participants with high school leaders and mentors.
   5. The Jewelry Sale was very successful in assisting in funding participation in the Franciscan University of Steubenville Program at St. John’s University (NYC) this summer. The parish CYO program also contributes funds to cover the cost of vans to travel to St. John’s. The Trivia Night proceeds cover the costs of chaperones.
   6. The Resurrection of Our Lord centerpiece in the Narthex was made possible by Maria Richardson and Lynn Hipp and was originally developed and displayed at the World Meeting of Families in September. It will remain in the Narthex until Pentecost.
5. Religious Education Programs – Meg Szewczak reported the following:
   1. The First Communion masses are scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2016.
   2. John Kasperowics will be the facilitator for the Confirmation Retreat.
   3. For 2016-2017, a Sunday PREP session will be scheduled following the 9:30 a.m.
   4. The Catechism of the Good Shepherd has been very successful for 3-5 year olds.
   5. For 2016-2017, a PREP program for special needs students will be offered.
   6. Good Shepherd Sunday is on April 17th. The 3-4 and 5 years olds will be greeters.
6. **Mobile App Presentation** – Meg Szewczak presented a video that demonstrated the new Parish Mobile App that will be available to parishioners and others in a month or so.
7. **Parish Update** – Father Brownholtz reported the following:
   1. Attendance at Easter liturgies was the highest in memory.
   2. Deacon Niche will serve as chair of the Liturgy Committee to plan for major events.
   3. Mater Dei School plans to rent 4-6 classrooms at the St. Maria Goretti Education Center for use as their Pre-School Program. Steppingstones plan to move to their new facility as soon as it is completed.
   4. The Knights of Columbus plan to use Drexel Hall for their Pancake Breakfasts on the 2nd or 3rd Sundays of the month.
   5. The Council discussed the possible viability of a digital bulletin board in the Narthex. Maria Richardson will review and make a recommendation to Father Brownholtz.
   6. The Constant Contact information program will be available soon for all parishioners who provide their email addresses to the parish.

The next meeting of Pastoral Council is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 3, 2016** at 7:00 p.m.

Father Brownholtz closed the meeting with a prayer at 8:40 p.m.