**St. Maria Goretti Parish**

**Pastoral Council**

**Zoom Meeting Notes**

**January 4, 2022**

Pastoral Council Members Present: Father Chung, Janna Kerr, Cheryl Ryan, Maria Richardson, Gloria Nguyen, Kim Staudt, Dave Mazeroski, Ron Boak, and Charles Amuso.

Father Chung opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:03 p.m.

1. **Pastor’s Update: Father Chung** reported that attendance at Mass for Christmas was very good for the afternoon and evening Masses and less for the Christmas Day Masses.

Father also reported that, thanks to the generosity of parishioners, the financial status of the parish is improving and is now good, compared to the early time of the Covid pandemic.

The parish has an endowment fund, begun several years ago by one very generous parishioner, that provides tuition assistance for families who want to send their children to Catholic school, but who cannot afford the tuition. Father Chung would like Pastoral Council and Finance Council to develop a plan to add to the endowment fund because, without additional funding, the fund will be depleted.

Father noted that the 70th anniversary of the founding of St. Maria Goretti Parish is coming up in 2023 and he wants to begin planning for the celebration that we should have. We should plan for an Opening Ceremony Mass, events during the year, as well as recognition of the anniversary throughout the year.

During the early time of the Pandemic restrictions, as Father noted, renovations were made to the Parish Center to make the meeting rooms more comfortable for meetings for parishioners.

Father explained the changes in commitments of member parishes to Mater Dei School for the 2022-2023 school year. Parish financial obligation for capital expenses will be reduced for one year. Subsidy will remain at $1,000 per each student who attends.

1. **Kim Staudt**, **Chairman of the Parish Finance Council**, reported that several new members of the Parish Finance Council have added, including Kelly Farzetta, Frank Mazzeo, and Matt Sirianni. Kim reported that the parish finances continue to improve. This is thanks to several fund raisers, including Goretti Fest, and increase in Mass attendance, and an increase in online contributions by parishioners. He also reported that the parish investment program has seen good return on investment during 2021.

Kim also reported that the Finance Council is beginning planning for a Building and Development Committee to develop a plan to improve the physical structures of the parish plant. Finance Council members on the committee are Kim Staudt, Bill Doucet, Bill Hudak, Geri Salanik, Bob Pagni, and Matt Sirianni. Pastoral Council members and others will also be added.

1. **Janna Kerr, Pastoral Plan Co-Chair**, reported on the “Disciple Maker Index Survey,” which our parish will participate in completing. The Catholic Leadership Institute is coordinating the survey for each participating parish and will provide a report of the parish survey results to the parish. The survey will allow parishioners to reflect upon their spiritual growth and discipleship. It will also identify ways in which the parish effectively supports growth now and how it can support growth in the future. The survey will open in March 2022.
2. **Maria Richardson**, **Director of Family Faith Formation**, reported the following:

We hired Tyler Grant, at the end of May 2021. He is a parishioner and a graduate of LaSalle University. He has a bachelor’s degree in theology and education. Tyler is the Sacristan replacing Pat Conroy in everything except weddings and funerals, Pat is still doing those. Tyler is also assisting me with all ministries.

I picked up Adult Faith Formation in June of 2021 when we brought Tyler on board and we also began Young Adult Ministry. Tyler is assisting with both of those as well as Youth Ministry and Religious Education.

**Parish Religious Education Process**

* + - * 2021-2022 We have 279 children registered for PREP
      * 74 Home Based
      * 205 in house
      * 2020-2021 We had 284 Children registered
      * 2019 – 2020 We had 305 registered
    - We are still wearing masks and doing our best to social distance
    - We are sharing 4 of our 8 classrooms with Mater Dei Day Care and so we purchased containers, tables, and chairs that make it possible to turn the rooms over quickly and efficiently on Mondays and Fridays
    - We have 36 children for First Penance and First Holy Communion
    - This number is low. Many parents held back first-grade children last year due to COVID.
    - The First Penance is February 2, 2022
    - First Holy Communion Retreat is February 5, 2022
    - First Holy Communion is April 30, 2022
    - We have 65 Confirmation Candidates
    - The in-person retreat is January 22nd. We have a team of high School students/leaders from Lansdale Catholic coming to lead it. We also have on line options for the few who are not comfortable to attend in person for health reasons.
    - The Confirmation Candidate Ministry interviews are still well received by the ministry leaders and the candidates.
    - The Mid-Term testing for PREP students are next week and we have the Kid Talk Child Protection Lessons from the Archdiocese planned for March.
    - May Procession – May 2nd
    - **Adult Faith Formation**
      * First Friday Devotions going very well – We have 8:30 AM Mass followed by breakfast and a short teaching on one of the saints. We have about 40 participants each month. There is a lot of energy around this, people are always asking what saint will be next and I am never quite sure so they have to wait and I think it actually increases excitement.
      * Club 50 monthly Game Day has added a catered lunch and attendance is still small 6-8 people– planning to begin trips again this year.
      * “The Chosen” Wine & Cheese Discussion Group begins in January. There are 4 sessions to discuss the 8 shows from Season 1. I am hoping this will appeal to the adults between 30 and 50 years of age.
      * That Man is You is still going strong

**Young Adult Ministry**

* Turkey and Mocktails in November
* Hike Mt. Tamney in March
* Field Day in May
* TOT type of event is possible in may (Catholicism and Cocktails)
  + - **Youth Ministry/ Children’s Ministry**
    - The archdiocese has restructured a bit and now has an Office for Ministry with Youth and an Office for Ministry with Young Adults.
    - In an effort to recruit new teens after COVID we delivered candy bags and flyers to every SMG household with children age 14 to 18 in September. They are very slow to come back. Parents are still concerned with their children entering other cohorts that are not school related due to COVID.
    - Fire Pit Hot Topics are monthly
    - Theology of the Body for Middle School Jan through March
    - Luminary fundraiser very successful. We sold more than we did the last time we had it and we had plenty of families come to help.
    - Will have a pizza Fundraiser for Lent
    - Christmas Family Event was a success they made Gingerbread Houses that we delivered houses to shut in’s
    - Play and Pray has not started up again yet.
    - Gorettifest games for kids went very well.

**Church Ministries**

* + - We are doing more with Bereavement- Anita Russo cards 1st month from Fr. Chung and another 6 months later as an outreach to those families.
    - Grounds Committee is doing very well since Lynn Hipp took that on last year.
    - We are still looking for a new leader of the Hospitality Ministry. This remains to be a ministry that no one wants to be in charge of. Eventually Tyler and I can work to redefine what it needed and make it easier to manage. For now the groups works with each other and is doing very well without a leader.
    - For Vocations week we made prayer cards with pictures of each seminarian for people to take and pray for one of them. We also had thank you cards available in the narthex for clergy appreciation.

1. Father Chung led a prayer to close the meeting.

01/13/22