

St. Margaret Mary Parish

The meeting of the Pastoral Council was called to order by Chair, Carlo Mascari on Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:35 PM in the Parish Center.

Members present:

Pastor: Fr. Mark Payne

Associate Pastor: Fr. Francis Assisi

Chairperson: Carlo Mascari

Vice Chairperson: Martha Perez

Secretary: Steven Gastreich

Trustee Treasurer: Timothy Gensler

Kurt Bardele

Krystal Burke

Diane Detampel

Natascha Nill

Paul Estante

Members excused:

TRUSTEE SECRETARY: Cheryl Vosswinkel

Members absent:

Jerry Nance

Guests:

Finance Council Chair: Dan Hohl

Three members of the Christ Child Society

The meeting opened with a presentation from the Christ Child Society of Milwaukee. They are a non-profit organization that aims to assist children in the community. This organization is a part of a larger organization called the National Christ Child Society. The first act of service that the Christ Child Society has been known for is providing layettes for infants. Several other service programs have sprung up from this original mission. There is currently a thrift store at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish that supports the work of the Christ Child Society of Milwaukee. Since this parish will be closing next summer, the Pastoral Council voted to have the thrift store, and their administration offices move to St. Margaret Mary. For more information about their history and programs, please visit: www.christchildmilwaukee.org

The minutes from the November 5th Pastoral Council Meeting were approved with corrections.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Mark expressed concern with the relationship St. Margaret Mary Parish is having with Seton Schools. Seton believes that St. Margaret Mary Parish should pay a yearly subsidy of \$100,000. Fr. Mark would like the Council to meet with Seton to express displeasure with this. Fr. Mark

would not attend this meeting, as this should come from the concerned parishioners. There will be more to come on this.

New Business

It was proposed to have the Milwaukee Police Department come to St. Margaret Mary to conduct a safety study with anyone from the Pastoral Council, who would be available on a date to be determined. The department would then give recommendations based on what they see.

This brought about other related security topics. It was decided to have schedules distributed by all groups who are scheduled to use the church at a particular time. Name badges should be created and given to everyone in these groups, so that it will be easy for ushers to keep track of who should be in the building at a particular time. Also, it should be announced as to when the church will be open prior to Masses for anyone who wishes to come early to pray. Krystal is working to get information on other safety concerns like active shooter training, fire emergencies, and medical emergencies. Fr. Mark suggested that she talk to Blessed Savior, as they have done a great deal of work on these issues. Krystal is envisioning a safety day for parishioners, to share all safety information once it has been gathered.

The next meeting between the St. Margaret Mary and Blessed Savior Pastoral Councils will take place on Wednesday, January 21st at 6:00 PM in Sampon Hall.

The Stewardship Committee will be joining the Pastoral Council to discuss recruiting more volunteers. This will be a brainstorming session during the January 7th Pastoral Council meeting.

Natascha revisited the topic of having stickers made and available for people to bless their own houses. It was decided that this would be brought up to the congregation as a special prayer to bless the church during the weekend Masses of Epiphany. Then, parishioners will know how to pray the prayer and stick on the sign on their door to bless their own houses.

Martha noted that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops voted to consecrate 2026 to the Sacred Heart. The Feast of the Sacred Heart will be held on Friday, June 12th. She will explain to Blessed Savior about the Mass that is held on that day at St. Margaret Mary along

with the Novena and raffle of the image. Related to the image, she will talk to Tony to have a regular reminder in the Sunday Announcements for individuals or families to take home the image for a week.

Natasha stated that she wants to talk with Tony about firming up the schedule for the Lenten Soup and Substance Series.

Old Business

Diane reported that the sound system in Sampon Hall has just about been finished updating. Cords and wires have been fixed, and a new microphone with an on-off switch has been added. She just needs to get a new mic stand.

The Next meeting of the Pastoral Council will be held on Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Gastreich, Secretary