

**HOLY CROSS/OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2023 @ 6:30 PM VIA ZOOM**

Attending: Amanda Lozy-Lester, Amy Mulcahy-Schmidt, Bobbi Weigel, David Kommeth, Donna Petrella, Father Joseph Martuscello, Father William Coffas, Joe DiVincenzo, Joe Kehm, Jonathan Stoklosa, Kevin Foy, Marc Boeh, Mark Tachin, Maryanne Sutton, Rob Weigel

Absent: Brett Granville, David Cataline, Donna Jacobi, Katie Newhouse, Nancy Spoto

- 1) Opening Prayer with members' intercessions
- 2) Approval/revisions of meeting minutes of last meeting, Motion Approved by David Kommeth, Second by Kevin Foy
- 3) Chairperson' Conversation
Logistics of January 31st2023 @ 6:30 HC Parish Center-Forum Information/Q&A/Healing Service
 - Committee members were asked to promote event, attend and greet parishioners at event
 - No Meeting in February
- 4) Youth Reports- **Holy Cross** (Jonathan)
 - Planning a joint skating party for MOS and holy cross.
 - Blood drive at HC 2/11/23.
 - Upcoming Information meeting in February for high school students for National Catholic Youth Conference being held in Nov 2023.
 - Planning a soup supper for lent.

Youth Reports-**OMOS** (Amanda)

 - Had a senior high youth group meeting on Sunday
 - Ignite meeting was last Friday
 - NCYC Info meeting on 1/25 at OMOS
 - Youth group meeting this Friday
 - Thought Christmas masses went well as church is full
- 4) Father Martuscello' s Update
 - Ignite is going well and attracting new members
 - Altar servers are getting more comfortable with serving
 - All Parish members and Council members are welcome to check it out and see what it is like
 - The Pastoral Council is asked to Pray for Youth and spread the word about Ignite
- 5) David Cataline's Update
 - No update
- 6) Pastor's Conversation (Father Bill)
 - We will have a joint Mission for Lent among our 7 parishes of the planning group: Thursday, 2/23, Friday, 2/24 at OMOS Youth Vigil for Vocations, and Saturday, 2/25 AM Mass – More information to follow. Bishop Matano will offer presentations on the Eucharistic Revival

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- Fr. Martuscello and I are working on a Vocations Awareness Team for priestly vocations. We hosted a dinner on Thursday, Dec. 29 at OMOS. 14 discerners attended. All together we had 25 people attend the event. We enjoyed dinner, fellowship, and time for prayer. Two priests offered their vocation stories.
- Parish Life Coordinator for HC+OMOS is Maria Miles mmiles7.mm@gmail.com. She will be gathering a group of parishioners to Celebrate Life in our Parish Community of HC+OMOS. This will be focused on advocacy and gathering supplies for those who are in crisis, such as diaper collections for our two food cupboards.
- There will be a Holy Hour for Life on Thurs, January 19 at The Cathedral at 7PM. All are welcome!
- I am observing that the word of remembrance at funeral Masses are more reverent with the new measures put in place: the person requesting to offer the words has a conversation with me over the phone, I state my expectations, at the funeral Mass the Priests invites the person up to offer words of remembrance “lasting 5-7 minutes and focusing on the deceased life of faith”.
- The school boiler is working. It was needing to be restarted every day in December. With some new electronic parts, it is operating well. I am giving consideration to how we can stay ahead of these types of issues.
- Billy is working to replace the lights in the relic cases in the oratory at OMOS.
- The Christmas Trees will stay up at OMOS until February 2 following the European tradition.
- The Christmas Trees have come down at HC – to prepare for a healing service on Tuesday, January 31st.
- At 6:30 the Pastoral Council will host a conversation about the parish’s contributions to bankruptcy, following this presentation a prayer service for healing will be offered in the Church at HC. I am asking that all staff and members of the pastoral council come to this evening.
- At OMOS the Servant’s Desk is working out well. We are hoping to begin offering the Servant’s Desk at HC in the Spring of 2023.
- Stewardship opportunities:
 - Bring Holy Communion to the Home Bound – Training January 21
 - Bring Holy Communion to Nursing Homes – Appeal at HC January 14-15 at 5PM, 10AM
- Future: ask for help to set up a HC Cross Homework Help program – parishioners from OMOS and HC volunteer to assist students with their homework assignments.
- Eucharistic Revival Thoughts:
 - Our announcements at Mass have been the topic of my consideration.
 - Is this the best way to communicate what is going on in the parish?
 - Are people even listening?
 - Is this the best way to prepare for the Celebration of the Mass?
 - We will limit our announcements
 - We will shorten the prayers of the faithful
 - How can we post the number of people receiving flock notes? Could we film a weekly video clip with the weekly announcements that is on FB and our Website? This could be done by different staff members and parish leaders.
- Both parishes have reached CMA goals. Father thanks us for our support.
- Task Force: Father would like to start committees based on the Diocese task force to focus on bringing back parishioners, increasing attendance at masses and focusing on promoting vocations

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7) Committee Reports:

a) Buildings and Grounds-HC (Submitted by Joe DiVincenzo)

Holy Cross School Heating System

- The Holy Cross School Heating system was repaired on December 27th, 2022, by Ambrose following several weeks that required the system to be frequently restarted, sometimes multiple times per day.
 - The faulty Spark Controller was replaced on December 27th as well.
 - The heating system has performed well since then without the need to restart the system
- Additional Heating/Cooling vendors are being asked to assess the current state and outlook for the Holy Cross School heating system due very long lead time for major repairs and replacement hardware (up to 1 year)

Refurbished Crucifix Installed with Great Parishioner Feedback

- The large Crucifix that was used on the Holy Cross Main Altar many years ago has been refurbished and installed in the front of church
 - Parishioner feedback has been very positive

Snow Removal

- I am not aware of any issues so far, but the snowfall so far this year has thankfully been very light

Quarterly Building and Grounds Meeting

- December's meeting is being rescheduled for January

New Sound Carillon Bell system at HC

- Very well received
- Set at certain times throughout the day (9-6)
- Can set system to coincide with holiday/funerals/holy day etc.

b) Buildings and Grounds-OMOS (Rob Weigel)

- Nothing to report this month

c) Finance-HC (submitted by Kevin Foy)

- CMA—we achieved our goal prior to Year End!!
- I reviewed the November 30th Year to Date Financial Statements provided by our Finance Director, Chris Frontale. Highlights include:
- Through November, weekly collections (including Holy Improvements) are at \$318,590 which are ahead of the Year-to-Date Budget but \$19,000 behind the same period last year.
- Gifts and Donations of \$25,517 are well ahead of last year's \$12,400 for the same period
- Building Maintenance and Purchase of Services are up significantly over last year.
- This has resulted in Year-to-Date positive performance of \$40,000 compared to \$98,000 for the same period last year.
- The school has changed its accounting method so I will not comment on that until after our next meeting.
- I would echo Brett's comments for the meeting on the 31st. Hoping for good attendance.

d) Finance-OMOS (Report submitted by Brett Granville)

- As mentioned at our last Council meeting, Finance met on November 14 and reviewed MOS financials.
- We have another scheduled meeting for January 30 @ 6:30 via Zoom.
- There is also a combined parishes meeting on January 31 at HC to discuss the parishes contributions to the bankruptcy channeling agreement to be followed by a prayer session for continued healing.

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e) OMOS Advent Giving Tree (Maryanne; Report Submitted by Kate & Brett Granville)

- This year we had to make some changes as one of our previous recipients; St. Andrew's Place closed their doors this past year.
- We were able to provide gifts/necessities for 50 families through Catholic Charities.
- New, this year, we have provided toys and gifts to 20 children currently enrolled at Holy Cross.
- The tree and the gifts were well received. As always, it was overwhelming the amount of support we received from our parish. Thank you and please contact us if you need further information.

f) HC Food Pantry (Amy)

- We began the year continuing to allow guests to come in every week with no address restrictions (due to covid).
- The situation required more shopping and began to put a strain on our funds. So, we reached out to parishioners for donations of non-perishables and cash and received a tremendous response. I should note that our parish always responds with generosity.
- In July, we returned to requiring ID & living in the Charlotte area, to be able to come each week.
- Our shelves stay stocked thanks to non-perishable goods and monetary donations (which allows us to shop for needed items).
- We have also received a grant from Catholic Charities.
- We fill 19-35 request forms each week.
- Gave out 46 Easter Baskets including a ham and 68 Christmas Baskets including a turkey.
- I can't say enough about our volunteers. We have 8 (2 person) weekly teams that gather, sort and stock donations.
- We have 4 (6 person) teams (including Jeanne Marie and myself) for Thursday distributions.
- Many of the same volunteers deliver holiday baskets.
- Two of our volunteers chose to retire in 2022, but we have been blessed with two new members.
- I am including the selection form that is offered each Thursday as well as the Welcome from Fr. Bill that we put in each bag. (Sent out to Pastoral Council on 1/7/23)
- We have a miscellaneous table with items that have been donated but are not on our form.

g) OMOS Food Pantry (Donna P)

- Not much has changed at the Pantry.
- We are doing between 150-175 families per month.
- We did a toy give away at Christmas for the families.
- We gave away 120 coats and boots supplied by the Spino Foundation during the fall. We continue to get mittens, hats, and scarfs from the MOS ladies.
- The response from the parishioners has been wonderful in both their food donations, volunteering and their monetary contributions.

h) OMOS Back-Pack Program

- The Backpack program continues to send home food supplies for the students to eat over the weekend. We have 120 families signed up for that program through English Village and Lakeshore Elementary. The participation by the students has increased by over 50% from last year so the need is real.
- Please thank Parish Council for their continued support.

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i) School Advisory (Father Bill)

- Father would like to start an after-school tutoring/homework help program for HC/OMOS students

j) Stewardship (Doug Escher submitted written report)

- Nursing home update. – Frank Kirchkessner is working with FR. Bill to add four new Eucharistic Ministers
 - To distribute Communion. There are 41 Catholics at Shore Winds that can be served.
 - Frank reported on how the Christmas cards and posters were received at the three nursing homes, and how they were so heartfully received.
- Parish/School – Time to reach out to Anita to learn of where else we can serve.
- Outdoor library – Positive comments of the new bookcase in the parish center for the priesthood. This outdoor book library would be considered in the Spring- time.
- Gallop parishioner engagement update. This is a slower paced project due to all the elements involved in presenting an accurate
 - Proposal for Father Bill. However, very optimistic of how it can help us get better.
- Charlotte Business Association. – Doug attended their one - year anniversary event at the Port last Thursday. It was positive to see a Holy Ghost representative there. I forwarded a follow up email to FR. Bill
- It was mentioned that it would be helpful to better understand the way Mass attendance is taken.
- It was suggested we do a little more research on how many parishioners are active. It was suggested we use the same method we have used in doing mailings.
- We are looking at an inspiring theme for our committee. This from Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic. “Give people the reason to be proud to be Catholic again, and they will move mountains.”
- As of now we will meet most Saturday mornings from 9am – 10:15am

8) Members’ Forum

- No issues addressed

9) Open Forum

- No issues addressed

10) Closing Prayer-Father Martuscello

11) Executive Session- Not necessary

NO FEBRUARY MEETING

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 @ 6:30 at OMOS Church Hall