



**DIVINE MERCY PARISH
PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2021**

The Divine Mercy Parish Pastoral Planning Team met in a virtual session on Monday, December 6, 2021. Those in attendance included: Father Ed, Wayne Boal, Bill Determan, Ed Jones, Gail Kenner, Theresa Marth, Mary Rita McKinley, Michael Moran, Margie Meyers, and Sharon Bogusz.

Fr. Ed opened the meeting with prayer.

New Business:

Catholic Campus Ministry at Frostburg and Young Adult Ministry: Sharon Bogusz, Campus Ministry at FSU and Coordinator of Ministry for Young Adults was introduced. Sharon gave an overview of activities planned and carried out this semester with students at FSU. Various activities included a pool party, participation in the annual FSU block party, study break event, bible study as well as weekly Sunday mass and monthly reconciliation and mass followed by dinner. Currently there are seven students that consistently attend events and 7-12 students who attend weekly Sunday mass. Sharon shared a PowerPoint presentation showing the various activities and ministry opportunities that have been available. One particular event, the **weekly Night Time Prayer**, is available to both FSU students and other young adults in the Divine Mercy Parish community. Sharon stated that the Osborne Center is being used by various groups throughout campus which has helped to introduce Catholic Campus Ministry to the general population of the university. In opening the center to various groups it conveys that all are welcome at the center. A recent Kwanza celebration was held at the center. Sharon also discussed her efforts to showcase campus ministry on various social media platforms since this is the preferred method of communication for young adults. In the future, Sharon will introduce a website for Bobcat Catholics.

Sharon asked Pastoral Planning Team members to help identify individuals within the parish who may be able to assist with some activities/events. To date, Sharon has been preparing and serving students brunch on Sunday's after mass or the group shares a meal at a local restaurant. Discussion ensued regarding the availability of Sodality members who may be willing to assist with offering meals to students after Sunday Mass. Team members or anyone identified and willing to assist may contact Sharon directly and her contact information is available in the weekly bulletin.

Old Business:

Update and Discussion on implementation and communication of Pastoral Plan

Discussion by the Mission Team and earlier Pastoral Planning Council discussions prompted Outreach Ministry to move to a higher priority in the Pastoral Plan. We continue to be challenged to find ways to be more visible in the general community since outreach is such a high priority for the parish. Fr. Ed reported that response to the Angel Tree outreach has been phenomenal and parish members have been very responsive in their giving to the First Way Pregnancy Center and holiday food basket giveaways. It was also noted that the parish donated \$1,000 to each local volunteer fire department that serves Divine Mercy Parish communities.

Communication: The **new full-color weekly bulletin** was first distributed during the weekend of December 4 and 5, 2021. The bulletin will continue to be emailed to parish members. A new publishing company has been contracted and they are very willing to devise a tailored publication for our parish's needs. Contents of the bulletin will continue to grow in the future. The new bulletin promises to be an effective tool for keeping parish members informed about every aspect of parish life, including the Pastoral Plan and efforts to carry out the various priorities within the plan.

Transition of Pastoral Planning Team Members

Official terms for all existing planning team members have ended. The optimal make-up of the planning team is representation of three individuals from each church community (St. Ann, St. Gabriel/Peter, St. Michael, and St. Joseph) and that membership transitions on a three-year rotation. Margie previously asked all existing members to contact her regarding their ability/desire to stay on the planning team. To date, of the twelve existing members, six are staying for at

least one additional year and replacements are needed for six members (2 each from St. Ann, St. Michael and St. Gabriel/Peter). Current members are asked to email Margie with names of any parish members who may be willing and able to serve for a term on the team. Fr. Ed thanked all members for their work during the past several years, especially related to the development of the Pastoral Plan. He noted that it will be most beneficial to have all new members named by the February planning team meeting.

Orientation for Pastoral Planning Council in 2022: The group discussed having an orientation for new members. Sharon, who has experience in this process, volunteered to plan and execute an orientation session. She discussed the purpose of having an orientation in that it is a time of prayerful discernment, reflection, and team building. During orientation, members will learn more about the gifts each member brings, expectations of individuals and the group as a whole, and will build an environment of trust so that unfiltered, trusting and productive dialogue occurs during future planning meetings. Current members expressed their support for having an orientation and several members stated that they would also be interested in attending. Sharon discussed the desired traits of a team member and stressed that we must remain mission centered. The orientation could occur either in person or by Zoom and could be done as a retreat style event or spread over multiple Zoom meetings.

In concluding the meeting, Margie thanked Fr. Ed for his ongoing support of the team.

The **next meeting will be scheduled in February 2022**, specific date TBD. A link will be sent prior to the meeting if done virtually on Zoom. The meeting closed with an Advent prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Kenner

For bulletin:

Summary of recent Pastoral Planning Council Meeting

The Pastoral Planning Team met on December 6, 2021. Sharon Bugusz, FSU Campus Ministry and Coordinator of Ministry for Young Adults, presented information on events sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry during the Fall 2021 Semester. Seven students from FSU consistently attend most events held at the Osborne Center and 7-12 students attend weekly mass at St. Michaels. All young adults in the parish are invited to take part in planned activities. Campus Ministry is looking for volunteers to assist with events and activities including preparing and serving brunch after Sunday mass. Interested parish members may contact Sharon. Her contact information is included in the bulletin.

In implementing our Pastoral Plan, Outreach Ministry has become a high priority of the parish. The parish's response to the Christmas Angel Tree, 1st Way Pregnancy Center and food basket giveaways has been phenomenal. The parish continues to look for ways to help the surrounding community and become more visible to members of the community at large. The new weekly bulletin promises to be an effective tool for keeping parish members informed about every aspect of parish life, including the Pastoral Plan and efforts to carry out the various priorities within the plan.

Terms for members of the current Pastoral Planning Team have ended. New representatives from each church community are needed to fill vacancies on the team. In total, six new members are needed. The church communities of St. Michael, St. Ann and St. Gabriel/Peter are especially in need of new members. Anyone interested in serving on the Pastoral Planning Team may contact a current member or the parish office. An orientation session will be held after new members are named. The next meeting will be held in February 2022.