

**Mary, Mother of God Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes, Thursday, December 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Ita Jubilee Hall**

Present: Soledad Andrade, Friar Tarcisius Bucca, Lucy and Maria Cordon, Kokou Dagawa, Eunice Daniels, Stephanie Held, Yasha Hookens, Robert Krug, Fr. Alejandro Lopez, Heberto Machado, Jr., Michael Magada, James Murphy, Lorena Nava de Machado, Mercedes MacLaughlin, Fr. Romert Morales, Eva Niewiadomski, Lionel Osaghae, Joyce Ramirez-Knight, Susan Silvano, Deacon Paul Spalla, Fr. Bob Sprott, and Friar Jason Warrer.

Not present: Frank Ativie, Ms. Christine Boyd, Fr. Thomas Fetz, Mark Franzen, Chris Grant, Greg Lindeman, Deacon Juan Ramirez, Vince Singvongsa, Deacon Ron Stricker, and Diane Trinh.

Guest: Ellen Credille

**Opening Prayer** from Friar Jason Warrer, meeting began at 7:05pm. **Approval of Minutes** from the 09/27/2023 meeting approved through a first motion from Robert Krug, followed by a second motion from Lorena Nava de Machado. Followed by unanimous approval.

**Operations** Physical Plant A boiler broke in the SGG gym. The roof inspection took place at SI for the rectory and church. The plans to redo JH kitchen and bathrooms to begin in the Spring/Summer of 2024.

**Outreach** The Annual Financial Report will be posted in the bulletin of 12/10 in English, 12/17 in Spanish. The numbers of our guests served in the FP and SK are posted on there. We are still looking at applications for hiring a manager - close to offering the position. A Venezuelan family has moved into CH (with their own closed off unit), James Murphy has moved to the attic. A project from The Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago, approved by Cardinal Cupich, to host a family and transition them to permanent housing; then beginning the process again with another family.

Homeless Task Force came about after the Townhall meeting at STC on 10/30. Parishioners and neighbors attended, with about 30 people present. In cooperation with Trilogy ~~there will be the task force has developed~~ an action plan to help one of our homeless neighbors (who has been living on the STC church steps) who clearly needs mental health help. This can be done in one of two ways, 1) through police eviction or 2) through involuntary hospitalization. The plan includes documenting incidents of aggression, poor hygiene, mental health episodes, etc. to show help is needed. Then Trilogy and members of the CPD Crisis Intervention Team will try to get her to go to the hospital either voluntarily (unlikely) or involuntarily. By choosing involuntary hospitalization, we hope, through p Professional opinions, that is that once on medication, things will be better for them and it will improve their quality of living. After this process, ~~we~~

~~the task force will be creating a want to have a safe policy put in place if this were to happen in the future. for how to handle similar situations in the future.~~

**St. Gregory's Hall Report** Saint Gregory's Hall The Board of Advisors met at CH; they meet to guide the programs of SGH and CH and how to have them work closer together. Illumination Manuscript Workshop on 12/15 and 12/16. Convivium Marianum 12/17 at SGG at 7pm (liturgy service with prayers, scripture, and music - the presider will be Bishop Bartosic.) Canterbury House Chuck Shanabruch, author of a new biography on SI parishioner, Ed Marciniak, gave a talk on 10/25 at 6:30PM at SI in JH. The Edgewater Historical Society, Loyola and DePaul University co-sponsored the event along with SGH. A Roundtable regarding the Synod with Fr. Stan (from the Nigerian Community) who attended the Pan-African Synod. Solidarity Gardens at SGG and STC - raised garden beds, making food for the FP and SK. A student will come in next year and work part-time with us and help at the SK and FP. Sung Compline at STC 7PM on Sundays. Bible Study on Tuesdays at 7:30PM. Every Monday from 1PM to 5PM the doors to Canterbury House are open to people living outside for fellowship, coffee, and escape from the outdoors. Help is always needed! Dinner offered at the Catholic Worker, 5pm. Thursday, 12/14 at 6PM there will be a Christmas Party at CH. Looking forward to the future, Roundtable on 1/25 with Prof. Lincoln Rice will give a talk on Dr. Arthur Falls (1<sup>st</sup> African American Catholic Worker). Any questions or ideas contact James Murphy at [jamesjmurphy004@gmail.com](mailto:jamesjmurphy004@gmail.com)

**School Report** 40 students of STC attended an Advent Penance Service on 12/7. The students were well prepared. Soon they will go on Christmas break.

**Liturgy and Worship** Spanish Mass has begun on Thursdays. Adoration and Vespers prior to the Mass are also in Spanish. In the new year, the schedule will be revised to see if it is still a parish need. Advent Giving Tree the gifts will go to migrant families from Venezuela. Unwrapped presents are due back by 12/17. Volunteer opportunities: to wrap these presents at SI JH on 12/11 6PM - 8PM, SGG SH on 12/18 6PM - 8PM, bring the gifts to the church altar on 12/24 at 2PM and to help distribute gifts after the 5:30PM on 12/24. New seats on the PPC two ex-officio seats have opened. Invitations to join the PPC will be sent out. New secretary for PPC Soledad Andrade has stepped down as secretary of the PPC. Her last meeting will be on March 5, 2024.

**Religious Education and Sacraments** Religious Education Update Last week in October (Parents) and first weekend in November (Students) - Student Virtus Training. Officer Martha Zaragoza discussed items like bullying, kidnapping/missing person, mass shootings etc. 11/17 Movie Night - Spiderman: Across the Spider-Verse. Back in August hosted the first Movie night - Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse. Future movie nights, game nights and other activities for our families will be planned - open to all. 12/9 report card pick up for parents. First opportunity for parents/catechists to discuss and work together on how to best help students in their

formation. 12/16 2<sup>nd</sup> parent meeting/potluck with the entire R.E. Program. Parents are asked to bring a plate of food that may be a traditional food dish from their place of origin to create conversation and get to know others; this is the last day before Christmas break. 1/6 return to class for 2024. RCIA/RICA Update 10 students are part of the Sunday group; 6 students are part of the Monday group. Planning for the Rite of Acceptance soon. The Young Adult ministry has 3 monthly gatherings: a game night, faith-sharing potluck, and a pub outing. The game night is the most popular; even attracting folks from outside of the church. On 12/20 a young adult Christmas party will be hosted; with a white elephant and hot chocolate bar. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd meeting on Tuesdays and Thursday. Hosted a potluck dinner for parent night (11/16). The program is now being run by Lauren Franzen as Elizabeth Blanke has moved out of state.

**Parish Life** Evangelizing meeting at SGG on 12/2. About 15 people attended the meeting. Sara Pekar and Sr. Ann Marie Bruchalski are from Vicariate 2 offices and help in Evangelizing matters. There was a video and presentation, trainings will continue online for anyone who is interested. The ALPHA program will be used, with the aim to rejuvenate the parish.

**Upcoming** Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) (12/8). Guardian Angels Mass and Reception (12/9) @ SI 1PM. Chicago Chamber Choir (12/10) @ SI 3PM. Toy Drive Sorting and Wrapping (12/11 @ SI JH, 12/18 @ SGG SH) 6 - 8PM. Franciscan Friars away on retreat at Marytown (12/11-12/15). Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses (12/12) - Mañanitas from 4AM to 6AM, Mass at 6AM with bread and hot chocolate afterwards; 7PM Mass and reception with Bishop Bartosic. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mass and Novena - canceled (12/13). Simbang Gabi (12/15 @ SI 7PM and 12/16 @ SGG 4:30PM Mass followed by dinner). Manuscript Illumination Workshop (12/16) @ SGG 9AM - 1PM. Mexican Posadas (12/16) @ SI 7PM. Colombian (Aguinaldos) Posadas (12/18 @ SI 7PM). Convivium Marianum Lessons and Carols (12/17) @ SGG 7PM. No Parish Socials at SGG or STC (12/24). Christmas (12/25). Mass Schedule change - Holy Hour Canceled for 12/26. Parish Offices Closed on 12/25 and 12/26. Mary, Mother of God (1/1). Christmas Concert (1/7) @ SI 3PM.

**New Business** Stephanie Held brings up the QR code that the Fundraising Committee introduced to place stickers in the missalettes to lead people to our website (volunteering/donating options). It has been transformed to a bookmark now that can be taken home or given away to others. A tutorial was asked to be made available after Mass for non-tech savvy folks. A possibility to put them into the Ritual Song books instead, easier than the missalettes so they are not thrown out since they are switched out more periodically. Make them available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Parish Census to find out who the parishioners in the parish are, their information, volunteering opportunities, etc. A team to be formed to input the information. An email will follow for those who would like to join the team.

**Next Meeting** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7pm.

**Closing Prayer** Br. Tarcisius Bucca. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.