

**Mary, Mother of God Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 22, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
St. Ita Rectory Basement**

Meeting began at 7:05pm

Attendees: Fr. Alejandro Lopez, Kokou Dagawa, Stephanie Held, Susan Silvano, Deacon Paul Spalla, Michael Magada, Lucia Cordow, Yasha Hookens, Lionel Osaghae, Robert Krug, Cheryl Sporlein, Joyce Ramirez-Knight, Heberto Machado, Mercedes MacLaughlin, Jack Nuelle

Not in Attendance: Frank Ativie, Fr. Bob Sprott, James Murphy, Eunice Daniels, Chris Grant, Deacon Ron, Diane Trinh, Eva Niewiadomski, Fr. Thomas Fetz, Juan Ramirez, Lorena Nava de Machado, Lucy Cordon, Ms. Boyd, Fr. Romert Morales, Vince Singvongsa

Guests: Ellen L. Credille, Jenéne Francis, Mark Franzen

Opening Prayer

Approving June 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes
- Seconded
- Approved

Update on Parish Census Plan

- Parish Census Plan to be re-emailed and questions/concerns to be sent via email within the next two weeks

Welcoming Procedures Approval

- Proposal passed around, but will be re-emailed
- Questions/comments and recommendations or people volunteering to Stephanie (sheld@archchicago.org) by 9/6

Celebrating Parish Anniversaries in the Future

- Should we celebrate anniversaries for individual parishes? Should we just be celebrating anniversaries for MMoG? What do we celebrate for each?
- Decision: Celebrating anniversary of MMoG every year, celebrating other church buildings on big anniversary years only (dates of dedication)
 - Dates to celebrate
 - St. Gregory the Great: November 28, 1926 (dedication)
 - St. Ita: October 9, 1927 (dedication)
 - St. Thomas of Canterbury: June 24, 1917 (dedication)

Mass Times Revisited

- Too few priests for current number of Masses
- Call for people on council to discuss Mass schedule for the future
 - Want to make sure there are volunteer representing each worship site and language group
 - We still need a volunteer to represent the 12:30 PM Spanish Mass
 - Fr. Alejandro, Fr. Thomas, and Deacon Paul to join meeting once it is scheduled

Continue discussion about purpose and function of the parish council

- Archdiocesan rep (Sarah Pelrine) to meet with Fr. Alejandro in coming weeks

Operations

- Parking Lot Situation
 - Attendant solution seems to be working
- Call for paper disposable covers in both gender public toilets at churches (especially St. Gregory the Great)
- Disabled parishioner seating installed at St. Ita

Agenda Questions

- Three weeks out send around meeting reminder and call for agenda items
- Two weeks out another meeting reminder
- Week before final meeting reminder and finalized agenda
- Soledad can print but needs to know what and how many
- Joyce will print if Soledad is unavailable.

Outreach

- School supplies drive until 8/31, boxes in the back of all three churches
- St. Gregory's Hall
 - August 24, 9am-12pm: Sarah Crow is leading a church tour on all three parish churches focusing on Marian art and architecture
 - September 6-8 Peter Maurin Conference
 - 75-100 attendees
- Canterbury House
 - James is leaving - Mark can be point person for now
 - Will continue but will look different
 - May not be able to continue Bible Study or Wed. dinner with migrant families weekly (maybe monthly?)
 - Mercedes and Mark helping prepare children of migrant families for the sacraments. Sacrament Mass on Oct. 6.

School Update

- School started this week!

Liturgy and Worship

- Families with small children
 - Discussion ensued about small children and babies possibly disrupting the mass, but it was decided that children are a blessing and belong in mass.
 - Baby carriages should not be in aisles (safety issue)

Communion Under Both Species

- Should we return to both species?
- A fuller sign of the Eucharist but not fuller sacrament
 - Still, full ritual and embodied practice is important
- Potential process for reintroducing
 - Raising awareness this Fall
 - Info sessions after Masses
 - Training for Eucharistic Ministers (EMs) to effectively administer the cup
 - Formation in winter months
 - Practical and spiritual
 - Potentially reintroducing in Lent
 - Lots of overlap with Lenten themes
 - Easter season
 - Reflections for EMs in how they've encountered the risen Christ

- Practical needs
 - More purificators
 - More ministers
 - Potentially introduce gradually (at some Masses not all to start)
- Would be a choice (not a requirement to receive the Cup *and* the Host)
- Council voted to explore this option further and gave Jenéne Francis approval to form a subcommittee/small group.

Religious Education

- RCIA now called OCIA
- End of September starting up again
- Catechesis of the Good Shepard starting up in September
 - Children 3-12
 - Tuesday Mornings, Thursday Afternoons, Sunday mornings

Next Meeting

- October 17, 2024 @ 7pm

Closing Prayer

Meeting ended at 8:23pm