

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Members attending: Doris Brodeur, Fr. Fred Tillotson, Fr. Richard Supple, Deacon Tom Grant, Darwin Reeck, Janine Marrone, Michael Deming, and Pat Tyler

Excused absence: Gary Chmielewski, Kathy Crisman, Jim Hancock

● **Opening prayer** was led by Father Fred

● **Minutes** of 1/15/15 meeting approved: moved to approve Darwin, seconded by Janine Discussion of the importance of keeping an institutional historical record of the minutes. In addition to the hard copy kept by the Secretary and Chair, Father Fred wants a historical record kept on the OLMC website.

● **Amendment to Pastoral Council Constitution.** Further discussion was held regarding the previously proposed amendment to Article IV, Section 1. The following language was adopted unanimously:

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: The Council shall be comprised of up to twelve members, all of whom must be in full, visible communion with the Catholic Church, and registered full-time members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. Each is to be dedicated to the welfare of the entire parish and the universal Church.

● **The Nominating Committee** had several recommendations in the works but was not ready to report at this time. Committee scheduled to report at March meeting.

● **Evaluation of OLMC vision,** direction, and programs continued. Focus was primarily on two areas: Service Outreach and Education.

Service Outreach was identified as programs that reach out to the OLMC community and beyond and are physical in nature, not just theoretical.

- Life Advocacy (e.g. baby bottle collection, baby shower, vigils for life, etc.)
- Visitation of the sick in institutions
- Communion to the home bound
- Service to the poor (e.g. Immokalee food drive, Giving Tree, toiletry collection, etc.)
- Evangelization
- Funeral planning
- Participation in Right to Life marches

- Blood Drive
- Knights of Columbus

Programs that are lacking or may need a more robust effort were identified as: grief support ministry, Guardian Ad Litem, and prison ministry. These were areas that OLMC could enter into a collaborative effort with other parishes to begin.

Consensus was that for a parish of our size and age we offer a robust selection of Service Outreach programs that have identifiable leaders, but need to strengthen the leadership succession in these programs. Overall grade: A-

Education

- Adult Education (led by Doris) Program has only been in place for a year, but it is providing good, in-depth, quality courses. It has had excellent leadership and a very good response from parishioners.
- Children (led by Margaret McHugh) She is having to rebuild our parish's program, but is very active and engaged and has created a lot of excitement among the children of the parish.
- RCIA We have made the program available to the parish but there hasn't been an interest in it at this time.

Father Fred stated that he is very pleased with the educational team now in place. Overall grade: A

- Concern was raised over how best to get potential volunteers in touch with OLMC ministries. Suggestion was made to have page placed in bulletin that lists ministries and their leaders 2-3 times a year. It was also suggested that this information be included in the info packet for new parish members. Also discussed the possibility of timing this information in the bulletin with OLMC Ministry Fair tables.
- Discussion of the usefulness of a survey within the parish to identify program strengths and weaknesses, perhaps using USCCB Lay Survey as a model. Further discussion centered on complexity of survey, range of those being surveyed, and how to tabulate/compile results. Father Fred suggested the possibility of a "Parish Synod" held on a Saturday where parishioners would provide input to create parish priorities. Decision was made to revisit issue at a later time.
- Some parishioners had requested an open forum to discuss the family life issues of the upcoming Synod. After discussion, consensus was that OLMC could look into a program in the Fall to have a general discussion of the issues being considered in the Synod.
- Is there a need for a Stewardship Committee? The necessary functions of previous Stewardship Committees have been absorbed by existing committees (Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, etc.). If a new Stewardship Committee were created it would be to serve as a network for the leaders of the various ministries in the parish to have better collaboration and to prevent duplication of tasks. Consensus was this could be accomplished within the existing framework and without the creation of a new committee.

Motion to adjourn by Pat Tyler, seconded by Deacon Tom Grant at 8:35 p.m.

The next meeting: March 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Prayer: Pat Tyler

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Deming on behalf of Kathy Crisman, Secretary

Father Frederick J. Tillotson, O.Carm
Pastor

Doris Brodeur, Ph.D.,M.A.
Chairperson