

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council

October 24 2013

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Jason Free, Charles Houff, Carol Lombardo, Deacon Jim McElroy, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale. EXCUSED: Hilary Walker

I. Opening Prayer

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:01 PM with the opening prayer.

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the September Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council were accepted..

III. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations

A. Stained Glass Class

Fr. Sheaffer began the stained glass class with the first group of 8th graders; the classes will run on October 24, 25, 28, & 29. The second group's class will run November 14, 15, 18 & 19.

B. Monthly Sunday Gatherings in Lee (Joe Cox)

We are done until the Spring.

C. Sacraments at St. Mary's School

Mass will be celebrated on All Saints Day – November 1st.

We are in the process of scheduling individual class Masses in addition to the monthly Mass at St. Mary's School.

IV. Holy Days of Obligation

A. Friday, November 1st is All Souls Day.

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, October 31st at 5:30 PM in Otis and at 7:00 PM in Lee, and on November 1st at 7:15 AM in Lee, 9:00 AM at St. Mary's School, and at 5:30 PM in Stockbridge.

B. While not a holy day of obligation, there will be a Mass at St. Mary's in Lee at 9:00 AM on Saturday, November 2nd in commemoration of All Souls Day.

V. Advent

We are waiting for Fr. CJ to get back to us with a date for a joint-penance service at St. Ann's in Lenox.

VI. Technology

Facebook analytics and Google analytics show that our web site and Facebook site are both getting plenty of visits. We will be deleting the parish Twitter account because it gets no local attention.

VII. Christian Service

A. Coat Drive

The Coat Drive will take place this coming weekend. Deacon Jim will ensure that items from Stockbridge are delivered to Joe and Father Sheaffer will do the same for Otis. Joe will facilitate the delivery of the clothing items to the Christian Service Center in Pittsfield and will hold back items, if necessary, so that the staff there is not overwhelmed.

B. Dreams of Joy

Joe has been in contact with Sara Hopkins and was able to get more information about the program and how it works. The program is currently working with about 50 needy families from Lee and seeks to know their real needs and assist them with clothing, toys, and, when appropriate, certificates. The program also works with the elderly and with veterans. Joe was able to clear up a couple of concerns. There were questions about why gift certificates would be purchased; it was said that they could be pooled to buy larger, more expensive items. Sara said that the program tries to avoid specific brand request whenever possible. She also said she would look into the occasions when there were multiple requests for the same item.

Joe had approached the Knights of Columbus for assistance. Charles said that the Knights work primarily to assist the community as a whole, rather than individuals.

We were told that the program works with local businesses (and, obviously, St. Mary's), Joe will look into whether or not other churches help out as well.

C. Food Drive

The Food Drive was a success as has been our new practice of keeping out baskets for weekly donations. Eileen Maxfield will see that the food items are delivered to the Lee Food Pantry. Fr. Sheaffer will set up a basket in Stockbridge. Otis already participates in a program.

D. Personal Care Needs Drive

This will take place in Late January to early February.

E. Operation Rice Bowl

Deacon Jim has been in touch with Catholic Charities to look into ways to make the collection for this drive more successful and fruitful. He will also be working with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to set up a Fair Trade Fair, so people may have an opportunity to purchase items, supporting people in poorer countries who produce these items and who are trying to be self-sufficient. The Fair or Sale would probably take place at St. Mary's School sometime during Lent. Deacon Jim will look at ways to incorporate Stockbridge and Otis into this as well.

VIII. Spiritual Life

A. November 1st – All Saints Day

Discussed earlier.

B. Mass of Remembrance: Thursday, November 7th at 6:30 PM in Lee

We will gather at 5:30 in the church to go over responsibilities and to rehearse a few things. Deacon Jim, Father Sheaffer, Carol Lombardo, Joe Cox, and Charles & Verna Houff will be there.

Sheila Viale and Libby Collins will be working on the reception to take place at St. Mary's School following the Mass.

C. Thanksgiving Day on November 28th at 9:00 AM in Lee

Deacon Jim will be coordinating the purchase of the loaves again. He will be increasing the number to 80. Father Sheaffer will be getting prayer cards printed.

D. Penance Service

We've dropped the plan to celebrate the Advent Penance Service in Stockbridge and are awaiting a response from Fr. CJ about the one we usually do together at St. Ann's in Lenox.

IX. Our Lady's Oratory

Deacon Bob said that Malcolm has forwarded updated schedule information to Libby for use on the parish web site. Fr. Sheaffer will check with Libby to see if she has received it.

X. Old Business

A. Collection Bins

Father did purchase two cardboard barrels for various collections and will be getting two more – one each – for Otis and Stockbridge.

B. Parish Picnic

Father indicated that we needed a chairperson to get things started; he said that the person didn't have to be a member of the council. This was followed by several seconds of silence! So, Father said he would find someone to organize it. The picnic will take place in September of 2014.

XI. New Business

A. PPC Youth Representatives

Father would like Youth Representative (teens – one boy and one girl) on the Pastoral Council, especially as we begin to look at the possibility of a Teen Mass and as we seek to be a part of the social and spiritual growth of our young people. Father will ask Kevin Kelly and Morgan Zukowski. All were enthusiastic about these choices.

B. St. Jude Mass

Father would like to begin a monthly Mass in honor of St. Jude. He said Masses for St. Jude have gotten a very positive response in other places in the Diocese in the past. All were supportive. Father plans to have the Mass at St. Mary's in Lee on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

C. Men's Conference

The Men's Conference will be held on March 29th. Jason would like to see a good number of guys from the parish. He and Joe said they

would be willing to speak at all the Masses a few weeks prior to get people interested.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's School in Lee on Decembber 5th at 6:00 PM.

XII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:56 PM.