

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council

December 5, 2013

6:00 PM

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

EXCUSED: Deacon Jim McElroy, Morgan Zukowski

I. Opening Prayer

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:05 PM with prayer.

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

III. Welcome

Fr. Sheaffer welcomed Kevin Kelly as one of our two new youth representatives to the Council. Morgan Zukowski, the other new member was unable to be with us tonight.

III. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations

A. Stained Glass Class

Fr. Sheaffer finished the first group but was inundated with funerals throughout November, which necessitated the postponement of the second group. This will take place after the beginning of the New Year.

B. Sacraments at St. Mary's School

- Mass will be celebrated on Friday, December 20th at 9:00 AM.
- SMS Advent Confessions will be celebrated next week.

IV. Holy Days of Obligation

A. Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Normally, December 8th, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a holy day of obligation but that obligation has been suspended because the feast will be celebrated on the 9th, which is a Monday.

V. Christmas Masses

St. Mary's in Lee: December 24th at 4 & 5:30 PM; December 25th at 11 AM

St. Mary of the Lakes in Otis: December 25th at 8 AM

St. Joseph's in Stockbridge: December 25th at 9:30 AM

VI. Christian Service

A. Coat Drive

Joe says Items are still being compiled and should be delivered to the Christian Center soon.

B. Dreams of Joy

December 9th is the deadline for deliveries. However, we will leave the collection bins in the foyer until December 15th .

C. Personal Care Needs Drive (Joe Cox)

Joe will be meeting with the staff of the Christian Center to determine exactly what items are needed. The drive itself will take place in late January or early February.

D. Operation Rice Bowl

Deacon Jim will present some information at the next Pastoral Council meeting. We are looking to set a goal for the collection as well as adding the free-trade fair. We are also looking to let people know that Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which sponsors Operation Rice Bowl, has needs throughout the year as it seeks assist the poor, needy, and suffering.

VII. Spiritual Life

A. Mass of Remembrance Review

The Mass of Remembrance went very well. Families of the deceased have expressed a sincere appreciation for it and have said that it has helped them to move further along the grieving process.

B. Thanksgiving Day Mass Review

It went well. We got a couple of notes thanking us for the bread and prayer cards. We definitely got too many loaves this year (80); So, we will drop it to 70 next year. Deacon Jim did see to it that the extra loaves were put to good. use.

C. Penance Service

Our Annual Advent Penance Service will be celebrated this coming Sunday, December 8th at St. Ann's Church in Lenox. It has been well advertised.

D. Monthly St. Jude Mass

We will begin the monthly St. Jude Mass on Wednesday, January 8th at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's in Lee. We will celebrate the Mass throughout 2014 and then, based on interest and participation, determine if they will continue after that.

E. Lenten Mission Update

We will be keeping the same format as last year, having a Mass Monday through Friday (April 7-11) at 6:00 PM. There will be an extended homily each night. Homilists include Msgr. Christopher Connelly, Vicar General of the Diocese of Springfield, Msgr. David J. Joyce, Parochial Vicar at Holy Name Parish in Springfield, Deacon Jim McElroy, and Fr. Sheaffer. We are currently working to arrange for Fr. Warren Savage to lead the 2015 Lenten Mission.

VIII. Our Lady's Oratory

The updated information for the web page has been obtained and is currently being added to the parish website.

IX. Old Business

A. Parish Picnic

The picnic will take place in September of 2014; Father is still working to find a chairperson.

B. Men's' & Women's' Conferences

Advertising will begin soon. Parishioners will give a brief presentation at the weekend Masses in mid-late February with signups after the Masses.

X. New Business

A. Life Teen Mass

Some time ago Fr. met with Colleen Free about doing more for the youth of our parish in terms of really sharing and celebrating our Catholic faith. A more recent conversation was about the possibility of a Mass geared toward teens on a periodic basis. Father is suggesting that we look at a regular celebration of Mass on Sunday evenings during the "CCD Season" and that we do so using the Life Teen program, which is centered around the celebration of the Mass but goes well beyond it as well. Father has used this program with success in a previous assignment and was very happy with it. Father will send information via email so that members of the Pastoral Council will have an opportunity to view it before the January meeting.

B. March for Life

Jason Free will be looking up info about buses from the area that will be traveling to Washington DC for the Annual March for Life in January.

C. Gift for St. Mary's School

Fr. Sheaffer turned 50 years old on Thanksgiving Day. Father asked that, in lieu of gifts, family, friends, and parishioners make donations to St. Mary's School. Approximately \$17, 800 was raised. About half of that money will be used for a new walk-in freezer for the school, which will eliminate the many freezers that are taking up a lot of room and using a lot of energy. The remainder will be used where most needed.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's School in Lee on January 23, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

XII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:41 PM.