

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council

January 23, 2014

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Charles Houff, Carol Lombardo,
Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Hilary Walker, Morgan Zukowski.
ABSENT: Kevin Kelly, Deacon Jim McElroy
GUEST: Principal Jane Furey

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 December Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council were accepted.

III. Council Membership

Fr. Sheaffer welcomed Morgan Zukowski as one of our two new youth representatives to the Council. Fr. Sheaffer also informed the Council that due to work commitments, Jason Free does not believe he can make a proper commitment to the Council and has stepped down.

IV. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations

A. Principal Jane Furey

Mrs. Jane Furey, principal at St. Mary's School, visited the Council tonight to share what is happening at St. Mary's School. Next week is Catholic Schools Week; there will be many activities throughout the week. St. Mary's Drum & Bugle Corps will lead Bishop McDonnell into a Mass at St. Joseph's in Pittsfield next Thursday. This coming weekend, students from St. Mary's School will speak at all the Masses in the parishes of the Southern Berkshire County and will hand out a flyer about the school.

Mrs. Furey said that the school continues to run safety drills, and is continually updating the parent, student, and faculty handbooks.

St. Mary's School will be working for the next 1 ½ years in anticipation of NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) reaccreditation process in the Fall of 2015.

B. Stained Glass Class

Fr. Sheaffer finished the second today. One student missed all but one half of one class and will be working with Fr. Sheaffer to complete his work. The show for students and benefactors will take place at some point in the next several weeks. Fr. Sheaffer showed two completed windows to the members of the Council.

C. Sacraments at St. Mary's School

Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 24th at 9:00 AM.

V. Holy Days of Obligation

A. None

VI. Christian Service

A. Personal Care Needs Drive (Joe Cox)

Joe is still waiting to hear what items may be needed; Hilary is set to put out collection barrels at St. Mary's when the time comes.

D. Operation Rice Bowl

Deacon Jim had a funeral and he and Joe had to reschedule their meeting. Therefore, there is nothing new to report at this time.

VII. Spiritual Life

A. St. Jude Mass

The first St. Jude Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, January 8th and was attended by 35-40 people. It wasn't heavily advertised and it was a snowy evening. So, we were happy with the turnout. A number of people indicated that they found the Mass to be very prayerful and they thought the music enhanced it in that regard. The next Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's in Lee.

There has been a request that the Mass be moved to the second Wednesday of the month because other parish events prevent some people from participating. Father will endeavor to do this in March.

B. Visiting Eucharistic Ministers

Fr. Sheaffer will be meeting with Barbara Scolforo and Roger Scheurer soon to get a better handle on who is visiting those in nursing homes or who are confined to their homes. Father would like to recruit some new ministers and also find a way to be sure we are visiting all those who need and desire Communion at home or in nursing facilities.

C. Life Teen/Edge

Father has made contact with the people who run Life Teen and Edge Youth Ministry. We have signed on and Father is hoping to introduce some aspects of the program in the next few weeks. Parts of the program are very complex and require a lot of planning. His

experience with the program is that it does start of slowly and grows gradually. Father is excited about it as well as beginning a periodic Teen Mass.

D. Healing Mass

The anointing of the sick will take place during the 11 AM Mass on Sunday, February 2, 2014 (NB: This is also the weekend that we will have the Blessing of Throats).

VIII. Our Lady's Oratory

Dinner on May 31, 2014 at 5:30 PM at St. Mary's School following the 4:00 PM Mass. Fr. Geoffrey Deeker is the speaker and Fr. Sheaffer suggested that he may want to celebrate the 4:00 PM Mass.

Deacon Bob said that a number of donations have been made to Our Lady's Oratory for the purchase of books and educational materials.

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. Joe will connect with Jason Free about arranging this.

X. New Business

A. Lenten Soup Nights

Charles said they would like to have these on a Tuesday or a Wednesday at St. Mary's School. The parish will front \$40.00 for each of the six nights. A free will offering will be taken up and the money collected will be used to replenish the money provided by the parish. Charles will communicate with Jane Furey regarding the availability of school facilities.

B. Seder Meal

Deacon Bob said that he would like to arrange for a Seder Meal at some point during Lent. It was decided that the school would be the best venue for that celebration.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's School in Lee on February 27, 2014, at 6:00 PM.

XII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:47 PM.