

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council

April 24, 2014

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Charles Houff, Carol Lombardo, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Hilary Walker, Don Zukowski

EXCUSED: Kevin Kelly, Deacon Jim McElroy, Morgan Zukowski

I. Opening Prayer

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:04 PM with prayer.

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

It was noted that the CRS Fair Trade Sale was inadvertently called the Free Trade Sale in the previous minutes. With that correction in mind, the minutes of the March Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council were accepted.

III. St. Mary's School

A. 8th Grade Stained Glass Projects

Reception/Show for Donors will be held on May 19th.

B. Sacraments at St. Mary's School

Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, April 29th at 9:00 AM.

Father will also be celebrating Mass with each class (Grades 2-8) Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered again before the end of the academic year.

C. Important Dates

8th Grade Graduation: Thursday, June 12th at 6:30 PM at St. Mary's Church

PreSchool/PreK Graduation: June 16th

Last Day of School (Half Day): June 19th

IV. Holy Days of Obligation

A. Ascension of the Lord – Thursday, May 29th

V. Christian Service

A. Operation Rice Bowl Recap – We are still waiting for the final tally of the amounts collected.

B. Fair-Trade Sale Recap – Fr. Sheaffer read a letter that was received from Kathryn Buckley-Brawner:

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's, St. Mary of the Lakes, and St. Joseph's,

Thank you for hosting a Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Sale at your parish on the weekend of April 5 and 6. It was a wonderful way to raise the awareness of the activities and work of Catholic Relief Services, particularly during the Lenten Season. Your volunteers were excellent and the preparation of the soups, cornbread, and scones for sampling added a very special (and delicious) touch.

It was a pleasure to meet and speak with all who came to the event. We truly appreciate your efforts which yielded sales of \$1,573.50. As you know, all the funds are remitted to Catholic Relief Services / SERRV and a percentage of those sales contributed to the CRS Fair Trade Fund to provide grants to Fair Trade Projects and communities around the world. We hope to work with you again in our joint effort to "think globally and act locally."

*A Blessed Easter to all,
Kathryn Buckley-Brawner,
Executive Director, Catholic Charities,
DD, Catholic Relief Services*

C. Next Project

Food Drive in June in conjunction with St. Mary's School.

VI. Spiritual Life

A. Parish Lenten Mission

Our Parish Lenten Mission had 35-55 people at each celebration. Deacon Jim and Fr. Sheaffer are hoping to get Fr. Warren Savage to lead the Mission next year and they are also looking at the possibility of having it run for three nights; more people may be able to commit to a shorter timeframe.

B. Lenten/Holy Week Review

All in all, Fr. Sheaffer believes things ran very smoothly. Fr. Sheaffer and Hilary are reviewing all procedures and materials for next year. Father is hoping that a couple of ideas for more involvement in the implementation of the various services will take shape in the next

year. Father said that, perhaps, a place of reservation t one of the sides of the sanctuary be prepared for the Holy Thursday Procession. It was suggested that an ad be placed in the Berkshire Eagle to further spread the word about the services.

C. First Communion/Confirmation

1. First Communion

Saturday, May 3rd at 9:00 AM. We have fourteen First Communicants this year.

2. Confirmation

Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 PM. Msgr. David J. Joyce will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. There are eleven candidates for Confirmation this year.

D. Monthly St. Jude Mass

Our Next Mass in honor of St. Jude will take place on Wednesday, May 14th at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's Church in Lee.

VII. Our Lady's Oratory

Deacon Bob reported that our former pastor, Fr. Gary Dailey will be the Guest Speaker at the dinner on May 31st. He also noted that there are extra CD's an many new books available in the Oratory.

VII. Old Business

A. Lenten Soup Nights Recap

The Soup Nights went very well; attendance grew as the weeks went along. The parish put forth \$240 for expenses. Donations were collected at each event and just over \$150 was returned to the parish. It was suggested that we could do better advertising next year.

B. Parish Picnic

Shaun Hall and Rick Methe have stepped forward to co-chair the event, which will take place in September. Fr. Sheaffer will be in touch with them to get the ball rolling. Don Zukowski and Sheila Viale will also work with the co-chairs on the planning.

IX. New Business

A. PPC Youth Reps for 2014/2015

Two youth reps were recommended; all were in agreement that they would be great additions to the Parish Pastoral Council. Fr. Sheaffer will contact them to see if they would be willing to serve.

B. Stewardship

Fr. Sheaffer is working with the Finance & Administration Council and Ray Coogan of Cuneen Fundraising to increase income. Father spoke at length about the financial challenges the parish faces as well as the resulting lack of resources, both in terms of ministerial personnel (i.e. a much needed Parochial Vicar), and resources to keep up with the upkeep and maintenance of the many buildings and properties that make up our parish.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held at St. Mary's School on *Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 6:00 PM.*

XI. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:10 PM.