

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council

January 22, 2015

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Devon Atwell, Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Deacon Jim McElroy, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, and Hilary Walker.

ABSENT:

EXCUSED: Maggie Free, Charles Houff, Carol Lombardo, Don Zukowski,

I. Opening Prayer

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:03 PM with prayer. The Council prayed for Charles Houff, who is recovering from surgery.

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

III. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations

- A. Catholic Schools Week is coming up and will run from January 25th through January 31st. Principal Furey has invited the members of the Parish Council to St. Mary's School's Open House this Sunday, January 25th from 10:30 AM until 12 Noon, and to the Alumni Coffee/Tea in the school Library on Friday, January 30th from 9:30 AM until 10:30 AM.
- B. There will be no school Mass in January because we will be partaking in the Catholic Schools Week Mass with Bishop Rozanski at St. Joseph's Church in Pittsfield.
- C. Fr. Sheaffer has completed the Stained Glass Class with two of three groups of 8th Graders. He had planned to have it completed this week but he was ill for a number of weeks. It will be rescheduled very soon.

IV. Holy Days of Obligation

- A. None

V. Christian Service

- A. Dreams of Joy
Reported as quite successful.

B. Personal Care Needs Drive

There was an error in the publicized dates. The new time will be the weekend of February 28th and March 1st. Last year there were a number of items donated that should not have been donated, i.e. partially used or empty items, used toothbrushes, and other things that would not be considered sanitary. We will be asking people to be donated unused items this year.

C. Free Trade/Operation Rice Bowl

The parish will be promoting Operation Rice Bowl this year. Deacon Jim will again address the parish at all the Masses on the first weekend of Lent. The Free Trade Sale will be held on the weekend of March 21-22. All proceeds from both programs will benefit Catholic Relief Services.

D. Diaper Drive

We will plan this at some point in the future.

VI. Spiritual Life

Lent

A. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 18th.

B. Lenten Mission 2015

Deacon Jim has received a commitment from Msgr. John Bonzagni to run the mission. The mission will be held on March 9th, 10th and 11th Mass will begin at 6:00 PM each evening.

C. Mass & Stations will be celebrated each Friday evening during Lent at 6:00 PM.

D. Lenten Penance Service

March 29th at 3:00 PM at St. Mary's in Lee

VII. Our Lady's Oratory

Nothing new to report

VIII. Old Business

A. Stewardship Appeal

The increased giving campaign has definitely worked; We have also received some gifts from former parishioners and even visitors.

B. Daily Mass in Oratory

It doesn't look like this is going to be possible; the attendance has been higher this year.

C. Life Teen/Edge

Fr. Sheaffer is finally getting the ball rolling. He will meet with Colleen Free, Maggie Free, and Devon Atwell in the next several days.

D. Book Club

Deacon Jim reports that there was little interest in it; he is exploring other possible ways to get this off the ground.

D. Religious Education/CCD

Melissa Kelly has been hired as our new Coordinator of Religious Education. She begins her new position today and will be working with Libby Collins during this time of transition.

IX. New Business

Deacon Bob reported that he received an email from Br. Kenny of the Marians stating that they would like to begin Adoration at the Shrine in Stockbridge. Fr. Sheaffer expressed concern that this would be a repetitive devotion within a small geographical area, and within the parish, which has the potential to have low numbers at both sites. Br. Kenny will be meeting with the Adoration Committee, Fr. Sheaffer has indicated that he will try to be there and that he also plans to discuss it with the Superior of the Marians.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held at St. Mary's School in Lee on February 26, 2015, at 6:00 PM.

XI. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:21 PM. The Council prayed for safe travel for Maggie Free and others who participated in the March for Life in Washington, DC.