

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council**

March 26, 2015

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Devon Atwell, Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Maggie Free, Charles Houff, Carol Lombardo, Deacon Jim McElroy, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Hilary Walker, and Don Zukowski

EXCUSED: Richard Lacey, Sheila Viale

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with prayer.

### **II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

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

### **III. Welcome**

Fr. Sheaffer welcomed Richard Lacey to the Pastoral Council. Unfortunately Richard could not be at the meeting. Richard worships at St. Joseph's in Stockbridge and serves in a number of capacities there.

### **IV. Pastor's Report**

- A. The Stained Glass Windows Class is nearly completed. The students are taking turns helping to solder their own windows. Fr. Sheaffer brought a couple of the windows to the meeting.
- B. The Monthly Mass at St. Mary's School will be tomorrow (Friday, March 27) at 9:00 AM

### **IV. Holy Days of Obligation**

- A. None.

### **V. Christian Service**

- A. Personal Care Needs Drive: Joe Cox reported that the Personal Care Needs Drive went very, very, well. He said that the workers at The Christian Center were very grateful for the donations and read the following letter from Ellen Merritt, the Executive Director of The Christian Center:

*Dear Friends,*

*It is truly a blessing to receive so much from a loving group of parishioners. Your donations help to bring much-needed items to people who are so grateful to receive them.*

*Each year, thousands of people come to The Christian Center seeking food, clothing, and emergency services. With your help, we are able to step up to the challenges we face while striving to fulfill the most basic life needs of so many of our neighbors living in poverty.*

*Thank you for your ongoing support. You ARE making a difference!*

*With much gratitude,  
Ellen G. Merritt  
Executive Director*

- B. Fair Trade Market/Operation Rice Bowl: Bowls or checks can be delivered on the next three weekends. We will publicize this at Mass and in the bulletin. Our Fair Trade Market went well; we took in about \$950, about \$600 less than this year. The Fair conflicted with the school auction. We will hold the Market again next year, and then every two years after

## **VI. Spiritual Life**

### **Lent**

- A. Lenten Mission 2015 was a success. 70-75 people attended each evening. There have been many positive comments.
- B. Mass & Stations have been celebrated each Friday evening during Lent at 6:00 PM, preceded by Confessions at 5:30. Tomorrow (March 27<sup>th</sup>) will be the last of this for this Lent.
- C. Lenten Penance Service: This coming Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM at St. Mary's in Lee. Sixteen priests have signed up to hear Confessions.
- D. Those who will help with clearing the sanctuary on Holy Thursday are: Charles, Joe, Peter & Barb Scolforo, Deacon Jim, and Fr. Sheaffer.

## **VII. Our Lady's Oratory**

Nothing to report.

## **VIII. Old Business**

- A. Lenten Soup Suppers: The Lenten Soup Suppers have been lightly attended this year due to weather.
- B. Life Teen/Edge: Fr. Sheaffer met with the Life Teen Band Committee and we are beginning bulletin ads to recruit singers and musicians. We have contacted Sandy Cummings about doing one 11 AM Mass per month once the band is put together and until the Teen Mass starts.
- C. Widow/Widower Support Group: Fr. Sheaffer will be meeting with Vickie O'Neil on April 7<sup>th</sup> to begin talking about the support group for widowed people.
- D. Parish Picnic: Joe Cox will contact Rick Methe and Shaun Hall about their plans for the Parish Picnic, which was postponed from last Fall.

## **IX. New Business**

- A. Fr. Sheaffer mentioned that the original church bell is still in working order and that, while checking it out, he notice that the eaves of the bell tower will need to be painted soon. While the Pastoral Council doesn't deal with any financial or facility issues in the church; a fun conversation was sparked when Carol Lombardo said we should have some kind of "Save the Bell Tower" campaign. Comparisons were made to the "Back to the Future" trilogy and that we could tie the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Mary's School in October to "Back to the Future"-themed celebrations and fundraisers. Carol, Devon, Maggie, Deacon Jim, and Fr. Sheaffer will form a committee to explore possibilities.

## **X. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held at *St. Mary of the Lakes in Otis on April 23, 2015, at 6:00 PM.*

## **XI. Closing Prayer**

Fr. Sheaffer led us in prayer at 6:36 PM