

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

April 23, 2015

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Devon Atwell, Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Maggie Free, Charles Houff, Richard Lacey, Carol Lombardo, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Hilary Walker

EXCUSED: Deacon Jim McElroy, Don Zukowski

### **I. Opening Prayer**

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:02 with prayer.

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

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

### **III. Pastor's Report**

- A. The Stained Glass Class will show their windows in May on a date to be announced. Father said that he would like to see a sampling of the windows make a tour of the three churches at some point.
- B. The Monthly Mass at St. Mary's School was last Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.
- C. Fr. Welcomed Richard Lacey to the Council; Richard will be representing St. Joseph's Church in Stockbridge.

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

- A. May 14<sup>th</sup> Ascension of the Lord. Mass will be celebrated on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in Otis and 7:00 PM in Lee, and on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 AM in Lee, 9:00 AM at St. Mary's School, and at 5:30 PM in Stockbridge.

### **V. Christian Service**

- A. CRS: Operation Rice Bow; and Fair Trade Sale  
We are still awaiting final figures on both the collection and on sales.
- B. Infant/Toddler Needs Drive  
Joe will call the Christian Center in Pittsfield and talk to Ellen Merritt to determine what the needs are and when the best time would be to hold the drive.

## **VI. Spiritual Life**

- A. First Communion will be celebrated on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM at St. Mary's Church. As has been our tradition, breakfast will follow at St. Mary's School.
- B. Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at St. Mary's Church. Msgr. John Bonzagni will be celebrating the sacrament on behalf of Bishop Rozanski. 5/3 at 9 AM
- C. Holy Week Review/Comments  
Overall, people thought it went well. There were differing opinions on whether the numbers of attendees was up or down but Father thought they were consistent with past years.

Father would like to introduce the Exsultet in the current Roman Missal next year. He has been using the older version.

In general, people thought the music was good but the choir didn't seem strong at times. It was noted that the choir was located to the side of the choir loft, somewhat behind the organist and away from the microphones.

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

- A. Cabinet Key  
It was noted that someone has taken the key to the cabinet that contains the monstrance. Father is trying to locate new locks

## **VIII. Old Business**

- A. Life Teen/Edge: As was reported last month, Fr. Sheaffer met with the Life Teen Band Committee and we have run 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. It looks like it will take the summer to pull things together
- B. Widow/Widower Support Group: Fr. Sheaffer and Vickie were not able to meet on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Per Libby, Vickie is working on pulling more information together before another date is set.
- C. Parish Picnic  
Joe Cox contacted Shaun Hall and Shaun was supposed to contact Father to discuss startup costs, etc. Father has not heard from him yet.

## **IX. New Business**

### **A. Coffee Hour**

Joe Cox said that the Coffee Hour in Lee will begin in May. It will be held on the first weekend of each month until the Fall. If weather is a problem, it will not be held.

Richard Lacey and Fr. Sheaffer discussed having the Stockbridge Coffee Hour either outside or in the dining room as weather dictates and not to use the porch, which doesn't seem terribly strong and which has new carpeting. The old carpeting was very stained from previous receptions.

### **B. Otis: Father indicated that one of the reasons the Council meets periodically in Otis and Stockbridge so that they can consider the pastoral needs of the parish as a whole and in its unique situations. Carol did not have much to report except to say that someone has agreed to come in to clean the church in the Fall and the Spring. The community in Otis is getting older and it's harder to get the cleaning done. Father and Carol also discussed the need for a new sound system and Father indicated that the funds are definitely available.**

### **C. Maggie Free decried the poverty of homeschoolers who do not have a ready supply of office supplies at their disposal. She absconded with Fr. Sheaffer's Sharpie®, a binder clip, and two paper clips.**

## **X. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held at St. Mary's School on May 28, 2015, at 6:00 PM.

## **XI. Closing Prayer**

Fr. Sheaffer led us in prayer at 6:42 PM