

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council

October 22, 2015

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Devon Atwell, Joe Cox, Anita Curtin, Kara Curtin, Deacon Bob Digan, Charles Houff, Richard Lacey, Carol Lombardo, Deacon Jim McElroy, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Hilary Walker, and Don Zukowski

EXCUSED: Don Zukowski

ABSENT: No one

I. Opening Prayer

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

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes of the September 24th Meeting were accepted.

III. Welcome New Members

Fr. Sheaffer welcomed Kara and Anita Curtin who will serve as Youth Reps to the Parish Pastoral Council for the coming year. They were unable to attend the September meeting.

IV. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations

A. Stained Glass Class

Fr. Sheaffer finished the first group. The next group starts on Monday, October 26th and the last group will begin on Monday, November 30th.

B. Sacraments at St. Mary's School

Our next Mass will be celebrated on Friday, October 30th at 9:00 AM and will focus on our All Saints celebration, with students making presentations about various saints after the Mass.

Reconciliation for students in grades 3 through 8 has been celebrated for the month of October. The next confessions will be celebrated on November 12th and 13th.

V. Spiritual Life

A. Mass of Remembrance

A Mass remembering all those buried from our parish during the past year will be celebrated on Monday, November 2, 2015 at St. Mary's in Lee. Followed by a reception at St. Mary's School. Joe and Hilary will

help with the candles this year. Charles will also help out. The Mass will take place at 6:30 PM. Joe and Hilary will help with the candles this year. Charles will also help out. Sandy is working on the music. Libby sent out a mailing to family members last week. Due to an error in the letter that was mailed out, the Mass time has been changed from 6 to 6:30 PM

B. Monthly St. Jude Mass

November 12, 2015 at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's in Lee.

C. Holy Days of Obligation (2015)

November 1 – All Saints

December 8 – Immaculate Conception

D. Thanksgiving Day (November 26)

Mass (Lee) 9:00 AM

Distribution of Loaves & Prayer Cards for use at the family meal to make a prayerful connection between the Thanksgiving of the Eucharist and the Thanksgiving meals we share with our families. We will need of few more of each than we had last year. We will ask Deacon Jim to facilitate this again this year. We will get 80 loaves. Fr. Sheaffer will get the prayer cards printed up. Joe, Richard, Carol, and Charles will help with the distribution of the loaves.

VI. Technology/Communications

A. Parish Website

Updated Oratory information will be posted soon. Sheila mentioned some errors on the page regarding funerals. It will be fixed right away.

B. Facebook

Nothing new to report.

VII. Religious Education/Sacramental Preparation

A. We are still waiting to hear from the Diocese to confirm a date for Confirmation in the Spring. We have requested Sunday, May 1, 2016.

B. Classes are “up and running” and Melissa seems to be doing a great job.

VIII. Christian Service

- A. The Winter Coat Drive is underway and will end on November 1st. As usual, Joe will coordinate getting the clothing items to the Christian Center in Pittsfield.
- B. Dreams of Joy: An announcement will be in the bulletin with a deadline of December 6th.
- C. In January we will hold our Personal Care Needs Drive.
- D. The “Blessing Bags” for the homeless in Philadelphia were put together by SMS students. 230 bags were made up and were distributed by the Keator family during their visit to see Pope Francis in Philly.
- E. During Lent we will again participate in Operation Rice Bowl, a ministry of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). We would like to hold the CRS Fair Trade Sale every other year and it was suggested that catalogs be available early to spark interest.

IX. Our Lady’s Oratory

- A. There are some empty timeslots. It was suggested that we advertise the available timeslots on Facebook.

X. Old Business

None

XI. New Business

None

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at St. Mary’s School on December 3, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:37 PM.