

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES 05/31/2018 ST MARY'S SCHOOL 6PM

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER by Fr. Brian.
2. ATTENDANCE AND MINUTES: Present: Deacon Bob Digan, Richard Lacey, Carol Lombardo, Sheila Viale, Brenda Bianco, Stan Achu, Joe Cox, Fr. Daniel Cymer, Charles Houff, Verna Houff, Fr. Brian McGrath Absent: Deacon Jim McElroy, Lynda Newton, Tom Finnegan. The minutes for April 30, 2018 were accepted by consensus with the correction of time for next meeting from 6 to 7 pm.
3. CALENDARS: The first drafts of St. Mary's Calendar July 2018-June 2019, Christian Service Commission service projects, coffee hours at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's and the Spiritual Life Commission calendar were presented. Still needed are: Faith Formation, CCD, Community Life, School and Knights calendars.
4. OLD BUSINESS
 - 4.1 Update for parish Census. There will be a meeting in 2 weeks to discuss the next steps and assignments for working on the census. Sheila, Brenda, Libby, Hilary and Stan will meet, but other volunteers may be needed to gather census info and produce our initial census draft.
 - 4.2 Update on trainings. The greeter training was held and greeters assigned. There will be annual trainings for EM. Lectors, but the diocese also offers training which can be explored by interested parties.
5. COMMISSIONS
 - 5.1 Christian Service: The Personal Needs collection was very successful and much appreciated by the Food Pantry and Christian Service Center. Joe reviewed the calendar for next year's projects and coffee hours. Lee Congregational Church is looking for help once a month for the community supper. Joe is exploring with the Knights or other service organizations whether they would be willing to help. Joe has not had follow up meeting with Pat DiGrigoli of the Lee Council of Aging yet to discuss help for the holiday meals.
 - 5.2 Community Life: Sandy Scarafoni and Verna are meeting and gathering volunteers for the Aug 26, 2018 picnic. The picnic will follow the 11 am Mass at the school. Requests for volunteers will go in the bulletin.
 - 5.3 Faith Formation: no report. Stan Achu, our seminarian, would like to present a summer Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke.
 - 5.4 Spiritual Life: Father is very pleased with the work of the commission this year, including the post Easter focus of "into the world" as well as the growing ministries. Next year he is considering focusing on Feast Days to deepen understanding of our faith.
 - 5.5 Finance: Mostly things OK financially. That said, big projects are underway (school's roof, a new boiler for Stockbridge), and other projects will need to be addressed in the near future. Fr. Brian raises the concern of how to deal with the winter costs of Otis. He welcomes suggestions. Some ideas offered were: not have holy day celebrated in Otis after a certain date; acapella music for

Christmas and Easter; and using the smaller building for services. It would need to be explored if pipes can safely be drained during the winter so as not to heat the church itself. Carol suggested communicating the concerns directly to the Otis parishioners so they could participate in the problem solving.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Do we need more members on the Pastoral Council? Since we have had some attrition, members are encouraged to think of who might be invited to serve. Verna will call Colleen Free to discuss whether there might be a youth group member interested in serving.

7. CLOSING PRAYER by Fr. Daniel.

NO MEETINGS IN JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST

PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY AUGUST 26, 2018

NEXT MEETING: SEPTMBER 24, 2018 FROM 5 TO 8 AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL