

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council

September 26, 2013

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Joe Cox, Carol Lombardo, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Hilary Walker; Excused: Mary Ann Cicchilo, Charles Houff, Deacon Jim McElroy; ABSENT: Deacon Bob Digan, Jason Free, Sheila Viale.

I. Opening Prayer

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

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

There were no minutes from our last meeting.

III. Welcome New Member

Fr. Sheaffer welcomed Hilary Walker to the Parish Pastoral Council. Father would like to establish a Spiritual Life Commission on the Council and since Hilary works so closely with all of our celebrations as Sacristan, her input would be very valuable.

IV. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations

A. Stained Glass Class

Fr. Sheaffer said that the class for the 8th Graders will be happening again this year but it has not been scheduled yet.

B. Monthly Sunday Gatherings (Joe Cox)

Joe continues to work with the PTO and students at the monthly refreshments at St. Mary's in Lee.

C. Sacraments at St. Mary's School

Father Sheaffer said that holy day and monthly masses at St. Mary's School have been scheduled; individual Class Masses will be scheduled.

Advent/Lent Confessions at School have been scheduled

D. Technology

St. Mary's School now has a new website with a completely new and exciting design. The new address is www.stmaryslee.org. Special thanks to Mrs. DiSantis for all of her hard work on the new site.

E. Tuition Subsidies

Resumption of Parish Support for St. Mary's School through tuition subsidies *has been increased to the full discount* that each student receives.

V. Spiritual Life

A. Confessions

In August we changed the Confession time from Saturdays at 3:00 PM to Saturday's at 3:15 PM.

B. Holy Days of Obligation (2013)

November 1 – All Saints
(December 9 – Immaculate Conception – moved because it falls on a Sunday and not a Holy Day of Obligation this year because it is being celebrated on a Monday.)

C. Thanksgiving Day (November 28)

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.

D. Advent

1. Parish Mailing: Greetings/Schedule/Offering Envelope

Continue Lighting of the Advent Wreath by families at each Mass. Carol Lombardo will facilitate this in Otis this year.

2. Advent Penance Services at:

St. Joseph's in Stockbridge – Sunday, December 1, at 3 PM
St. Ann's in Lenox - Not sure yet.

E. Christmas

Masses

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM (Lee)

5:30 PM (Lee)

Christmas Day

8:00 AM (Otis)

9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

11:00 AM (Lee)

F. Mary, the Holy Mother of God (January 1)

Masses

December 31

4:00 PM (Lee)

January 1

8:00 AM (Otis)

9:30 AM (Stockbridge)

11:00 AM (Lee)

G. Lent

Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2014

7:15 AM Mass (Lee)

9:00 AM Mass (St. Mary's School)

12:05 PM Service (Lee)

5:30 PM Service (Lee)

5:30 PM Service (Otis)

5:30 PM Mass (Stockbridge)

Weekly

7:15 AM Mass on Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays/Fridays

7:15 AM Service of the Word on Wednesdays

5:30 – 5:55 Confessions on Fridays

6:00 PM Mass & Stations on Fridays

Lenten Penance Service

Sunday, April 13 at 3:00 PM (Lee)

Lenten Mission

April 5-11 Weekend Masses

Mass & Conference M-F 6-7 PM

Living Stations (Lee)

April 15 at 6:30 PM

H. Holy Week

April 12/13	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
April 13	Lenten Penance Service (Lee)
April 14	Mass at 7:15 AM
April 15	Mass at 7:15 AM Living Stations at 6:30 PM
April 16	Service of the Word at 7:15 AM
April 17 Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM Church open for private prayer until 9:00 PM
April 18 Good Friday	Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM Passion of our Lord at 7:00 PM
April 19 Holy Saturday	Blessing of Easter Food (Lee) 11:00 AM Easter Vigil at 7:15 PM (Tentative) (Lee)
April 20 Easter Sunday	8:00 AM Mass (Lee) 9:30 AM Mass (Otis) 9:30 AM Mass (Stockbridge) 11:00 AM Mass (Lee)

VI. Technology/Communications

1. Parish Website

Oratory Information needs to be updated; Joe Cox said he will facilitate getting the update.

2. Facebook

Updated with pertinent information and links to posts on St. Mary's School's Facebook.

VII. Religious Education/Sacramental Preparation

Libby Collins is the Coordinator; classes begin on September 29th.

VIII. Christian Service

A. Joe Cox said that the September Food Drive went very well and that the staff of the Lee Food Pantry was very appreciative. Joe also thanks Eileen Maxfield and Hilary Walker for their efforts in delivering the food. He said that we will continue to do the drive in the Pantry's "off season" and that he will be working on a revised list of items needed as well as working on increased publicity.

B. Joe said that we will hold our 2nd Annual Coat Drive on the weekend of October 26-27 and that the coats will be going to the same place in Pittsfield as we try to focus on helping the needy in Berkshire County.

C. Joe said that during the months of November and December we will focus on "Dreams of Joy." He said that there have been some complaints about the way the program works and that he will work to address these issues as well as to coordinate it better.

D. Joe said that in late January and early February we will collect items for personal care for the homeless. The items will go to an organization in Pittsfield that works with the homeless.

E. During Lent we will focus on Operation Rice Bowl and Joe will work closely with Deacon Jim on this. He said that there will be a challenge to the parish to raise more funds than we did last year; we will also look into ways that St. Mary's School can be more involved in it. Also, he and Deacon Jim will be looking into a "Fair Trade Sale."

IX. Our Lady's Oratory

A. A chair is broken and has been placed in the garage. Hilary will ask Peter Scolforo to take a look at it when he returns from Italy in a couple of weeks.

B. There will be no dinner in the Fall; the Oratory Committee is hoping to have another one in June.

C. Joe Cox said that the Oratory Committee will be looking at ways to advertise the Oratory at neighboring parishes.

X. Old Business

1. Father will be working to establish the Funeral Ministry team in the next several weeks.

2. Father will be looking into cardboard barrels for various collections.

XI. New Business

Joe Cox recommended that we have an annual Parish Picnic, perhaps on school grounds. Early September is the recommended timeframe.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at St. Joseph's in Stockbridge on October 24th at 6:00 PM.

XII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:42 PM.