

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

March 27, 2014

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Joe Cox, Charles Houff, Kevin Kelly, Carol Lombardo, Deacon Jim McElroy, Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Hilary Walker  
EXCUSED: Deacon Bob Digan, Don Zukowski, Morgan Zukowski

### **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. St. Mary's School**

#### **A. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Stained Glass Projects**

Fr. Sheaffer is working with 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students to put the finishing touches on their stained glass windows and to set a time for their show, which will probably be held sometime during the month of May.

#### **B. Sacraments at St. Mary's School**

Mass will be celebrated on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

Lenten Confessions at St. Mary's School have been celebrated. Fr. Sheaffer and Principal Furey are discussing time for Confessions in addition to the ones scheduled during Lent and Advent, perhaps once every month or two.

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

A. None

### **V. Christian Service**

#### **A. Personal Care Needs Drive**

The drive was a success. The staff at the Christian Center in Pittsfield were very grateful. They will be creating baskets for 75 families that will be distributed at Easter time.

#### **B. Operation Rice Bowl**

Not too much to report; rice bowl funds will come in at the end of Lent.

### C. Free-Trade Sale

The Free-Trade Sale will be held on the weekend of April 5/6 at St. Mary's School. It will be held on Saturday, 4:30 – 7:00 PM, and on Sunday, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Deacon Jim and his wife, Sue picked up the items today and they will be stored at the school until the sale. Deacon Jim is still looking for a few volunteers to host the tables and to prepare food and coffee samples. The sale will probably be held in the school gymnasium instead of the library. Deacon Jim asked if the Knights of Columbus would be able to help as volunteers; Charles Houff will see if that is a possibility.

### D. Future Christian Service/Community Projects

1. May 2014: Coffee/Refreshments in Lee will resume
2. June 2014: Food Drive for Lee Food Panty; excess will go to Sheffield. We would like to do this in conjunction with the students of St. Mary's School.
3. September 2014: Food Drive for Lee Food Pantry. This would be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend after Labor Day (September 13/14).
4. October 2014: Annual Coat Drive for the needy of Berkshire County.

## VI. Spiritual Life

### A. Parish Lenten Mission

The Parish Lenten Mission will take place at St. Mary's Church in Lee Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 PM each evening. Celebrants/Homilists will include Msgr. Christopher Connelly, Vicar General of the Diocese of Springfield, Msgr. David Joyce, Co-Vicar for Clergy of the Diocese of Springfield, Deacon Jim McElroy, and Fr. Jack Sheaffer. The Mass on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> will incorporate our monthly Mass in honor of St. Jude.

### B. Lenten Penance Service

Our Annual Joint-Parish Lenten Penance Service will be celebrated on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Church in Lee. The people of St. Ann's Parish in Lenox will join us. There will be a number of priests available for individual confessions. This year's First Communicants will be celebrating their First Penance during this service.

### C. Holy Week

All Holy Week services have been well publicized. We do have a catechumen this year, Marianne, who will be baptized and confirmed during the Easter Vigil.

## VII. Our Lady's Oratory

### A. Oratory Dinner

Deacon Bob was not at the meeting to give an update.

## VII. Old Business

### A. Lenten Soup Nights

Charles Houff reported that we are getting 20-25 people and that the numbers are growing. Contributions seem to be covering the costs.

### B. Parish Picnic

Fr. Sheaffer has a couple of tentative commitments from people willing to work on a committee. He will pull together an initial meeting sometime in May.

## IX. New Business

### A. Women's Conference

The Diocese of Springfield will be holding its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Conference in Chicopee on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have some of the ladies of the parish on hand on a weekend soon to invite parishioners to the conference. We have yet to receive any literature from the Diocese; Fr. Sheaffer will call to find out when we can expect it to be delivered.

### B. Life Teen

Fr. Sheaffer reiterated that we will be starting Life Teen in the Fall and is hoping to integrate it with our Religious Education program, hopefully moving away from a classroom model. The Life Teen Mass will be a part of this.

## X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held in the Msgr. Foudy Hall at St. Mary of the Lakes Mission in Otis on April 24, 2014, at 6:00 PM.

## XI. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:34 PM.