

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council

May 22, 2014

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Maggie Free, Carol Lombardo,
Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Don Zukowski

EXCUSED: Kevin Kelly, Deacon Jim McElroy, Hilary Walker, Charles Houff,
Morgan Zukowski

I. Opening Prayer

Father Sheaffer opened the meeting at 6:01 PM with prayer.

II. Review & Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

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

III. Welcome

Father Welcomed Maggie Free, who will be one of our Youth Reps during the 2014/2015 PPC Year. Maggie is especially eager to work on our Life Teen Mass when it begins.

IV. St. Mary's School

A. 8th Grade Stained Glass Projects

Reception/Show for Donors was held on May 19th. Father showed the windows to the PPC members. We are hoping that they may be on display at St. Mary's Church before the students take them home at the end of the year; perhaps at the Coffee Hour.

B. Sacraments at St. Mary's School

Fr. Sheaffer has been doing Class Masses with Grades 2-8 and has 3 more Masses with the 2nd, 5th, and 6th Grade classes. Reconciliation will also be celebrated before the end of the academic year.

C. Important Dates

8th Grade Graduation: Thursday, June 12th at 6:30 PM at St. Mary's Church

PreSchool/PreK Graduation: June 16th

Last Day of School (Half Day): June 19th

V. Holy Days of Obligation

A. Ascension of the Lord – Thursday, May 29th Masses will be celebrated at St. Mary's in Lee on Wednesday at 7 PM and Thursday at 7:15 AM, at St. Mary of the Lakes on Wednesday at 5:30 PM, at St. Mary's School on Thursday at 9 AM, and at St. Joseph's on Thursday at 5:30 PM.

VI. Christian Service

A. The final tally on Operation Rice Bowl: We raised \$5,158.51! Thank you to Deacon Jim for his efforts in this regard.

B. June Food Drive

Food Drive in June in conjunction with St. Mary's School. The Drive will take place the weekend of June 7 and 8, with a wrap-up on the 15th. St. Mary's School will hold its portion of the drive June 9th through June 13th.

Carol serves on the School Board in Otis and, through her suggestion, the students of Otis will tentatively hold a canned food drive to benefit the Lee Food Pantry on June 11th in conjunction with their Field Day.

VII. Spiritual Life

A. First Communion/Confirmation

First Communion

Saturday, May 3rd at 9:00 AM. We had fourteen First Communicants this year. The Mass was followed by our traditional breakfast at St. Mary's School.

Confirmation

Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 PM. Msgr. David J. Joyce will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. There were eleven candidates for Confirmation this year.

Father expressed the gratitude of the parish to our catechists.

B. Monthly St. Jude Mass

Our Next Mass in honor of St. Jude will take place on Wednesday, June 11th at 7:00 PM at St. Mary's Church in Lee.

C. Adult Altar Servers for Funerals.

Currently we have four servers and we are hoping for more. Fr. Sheaffer has requested volunteers a couple of times in his bulletin letter.

VIII. Our Lady's Oratory

A. Dinner

The Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 31st at 5:30 PM. Fr. Gary Dailey will be the speaker and has tentatively agreed to celebrate the 4:00 PM Mass that afternoon at St. Mary's Church.

B. Deacon Bob says that there has been discussion about working to remove some of the “clutter” in the Oratory, such as the extra kneelers around the chapel. He said that there has been discussion about removing the large Crucifix that adorns the entryway to the Oratory. Fr. Sheaffer suggested that the Committee look into the history of the Crucifix before removing it.

(UPDATED MAY 23rd – After discussing the issue of the Crucifix with a number of people, Fr. Sheaffer discovered that it was the Crucifix from the sanctuary at St. Francis in South Lee and it was placed in a prominent place for the purpose of bringing part of the heritage and tradition of the Catholic community of South Lee into their experience here at St. Mary’s. He also discovered that there was no significant discussion with the Oratory Board and that the few who were present were astounded by the suggestion that it be moved. Fr. Sheaffer has determined that there is no reason or call to move it and that it will remain in place.)

C. Fr. Sheaffer expressed concern about the safety of the positioning of the one of the new benches at the Grotto at St. Mary’s. It is on a steep angle. All of the new benches were donated by Lee Hardware in memory of Joe Scapin who died recently. It was suggested that not all the benches need to be out there all the time and that one or two of them could be arranged elsewhere and that the one old bench left at the base of a tree should be stored.

IX. Old Business

A. Parish Picnic

Shaun Hall and Rick Methe have stepped forward to co-chair the event, which will take place in September. Nothing new to report at this time.

B. PPC Youth Reps for 2014/2015

Devon Atwell and Maggie Free have graciously agreed to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council next year.

X. New Business

A. Coffee Hour at St. Mary’s resumes this coming weekend, with the weekend of June 7 and 8 as a rain date.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held at St. Joseph’s Church at 11 Elm Street in Stockbridge on Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 6:00 PM. Spouses and families are invited.

XII. Closing Prayer

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:27 PM.