

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

October 23, 2014

6:00 PM

PRESENT: Devon Atwell, Joe Cox, Deacon Bob Digan, Maggie Free, Charles Houff, Carol Lombardo, , Fr. Jack Sheaffer, Sheila Viale, Hilary Walker, Don Zukowski.

ABSENT: Deacon Jim McElroy

### **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 September Meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council were accepted.

### **III. St. Mary's School Principal Report**

Fr. Sheaffer welcomed Mrs. Jane Furey for her Annual Report to the Pastoral Council. Mrs. Furey briefed the Council on the changes at St. Mary's School – the establishment of the Middle School, grades 6,7 and 8, and the movement of most of the classes to establish three distinct wings for the different levels of the school. Along with these changes came the painting of most of the school and the procurement of lockers for Middle School, stage curtains, white boards, work tables for the tech room and other items from the tornado-damaged Cathedral High School in Springfield. The school has also procured more Chromebooks (small Laptop computers) as well as a new charging cart. We also have a fourth interactive whiteboard. In addition, the school has procured document cameras, which are the contemporary version of overhead projectors for iPads.

Grades 7 and 8 are doing a service period each week, recycling and helping students in younger grades.

Mrs. Furey indicated that the Middle School students are working on media projects – the yearbook, the online newspaper and a new television show with CTSB.

Mrs. Furey indicated that enrollment in Grades K-8 has increased by 5% this year. Fr. Sheaffer indicated that St. Mary's School is the only Catholic school in the Diocese of Springfield to have seen an increase this year.

Mrs. Furey and the faculty are working very hard on their New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) reaccreditation, which will take place next year.

St. Mary's School will again be performing for our Veterans on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **IV. St. Mary's School/Parish Relations**

- A. Fr. Sheaffer has begun monthly Confessions with Grades 3-8.
- B. Mass will be celebrated on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM
- C. Fr. Sheaffer has completed the Stained Glass Class with one of three groups of 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. The second group will take place next week and the final group will take the class during the first week of December.

#### **V. Holy Days of Obligation**

- A. None. November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Souls Day but it falls on a Saturday. Although it is not a Holy Day of Obligation, a Mass will be celebrated at 9 AM at St. Mary's in Lee to commemorate the day.

#### **VI. Christian Service**

- A. Food Drive  
Joe Cox said that our recent Food Drive was very successful; we collected a full truckload, which was delivered to the Lee Food Pantry.
- B. Annual Winter Coat Drive  
We are not yet sure of the date but it will be happening in the next few weeks.
- C. Dreams of Joy  
We will be participating again this year as well as the gift program for the Veterans.

#### **VII. Spiritual Life**

- A. Mass of Remembrance  
Libby has made contacts with people regarding the reception at St. Mary's School. Hilary has purchased the candles and holders. Libby and Father will put together the program. We will need ushers and lectors for the Mass. Charles will lector; Joe and Carol will light the candles. Don and Carol will be greeters.

#### B. Funeral Coordinators

Fr. Sheaffer has started working with funeral coordinators. They will meet with grieving families to plan the funeral liturgy and will be present to the families throughout the services we offer. Sheila Viale and Fred Conforti will be covering Lee, Deacon Jim will cover Stockbridge, and Carol Lombardo will cover Otis. New adult funeral servers will also be trained soon.

#### C. Thanksgiving Day

Deacon Jim has ordered 80 loaves of bread but will be away on Thanksgiving Day. Joe and Hilary offered to facilitate the loaves.

Fr. Sheaffer is printing 100 prayer cards for grace at the Thanksgiving meals.

#### D. Lenten Mission 2015

Unfortunately, Fr. Savage will not be able to lead our Lenten Mission Jim is going to see if Msgr. Bonzagni can do it. We also think that a three-day mission would be better than a week-long mission. We may get a better response.

### **VIII. Our Lady's Oratory**

Nothing new to report.

### **IX. Old Business**

#### A. Stewardship Appeal

We began our Stewardship Appeal this past weekend. Father introduced the program. Maryann Saunders spoke at all the Masses in Lee and Deacon Jim spoke at the Masses in Otis and Stockbridge. Don Zukowski will speak in Lee this Weekend and Deacon Jim will cover Otis and Stockbridge. Our goal is to increase our weekly income in a sustained way.

#### B. Daily Mass in Oratory

We will begin soon; we are still working on a way to get as many chairs as possible into the Oratory.

## **X. New Business**

- A. A parishioner has asked that we mention in the bulletin that some people may not want to shake hands at the Sign of Peace. Fr. Sheaffer will put a notice in the November 2<sup>nd</sup> bulletin.
- B. It was suggested that the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders from St. Mary's School have an opportunity to experience adoration in the Oratory. Fr. Sheaffer will mention this to Mrs. Furey.

## **XI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's School in Lee on December 4, 2014, at 6:00 PM.

## **XII. Closing Prayer**

Fr. Sheaffer closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:31 PM.