

ST. MARY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
March 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm

I. Attendance:

Present: Fr. Brian McGrath, Fr. Matthew Barone, Deacon Jim McElroy, Lewis Brooks, Charles Houff, Richard Lacey, Erin Pollard, Laura Sexton, Carol Lombardo.

Absent: Kate Murray, Chad Klapes, Trish Santos, Lynda Newton, Lori Koperek.

II. Fr. Brian said an opening prayer.

III. The minutes from the February, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

IV. The calendar was reviewed with a discussion of upcoming events. The personal care needs drive will be added for May 7/8 and 14/15..

V. COMMISSION REPORTS:

A. CHRISTIAN SERVICE: Richard Lacey. The Lenten rice bowl collections are ongoing. At a Synodality Listening session, a couple approached Richard about working on Christian Service and Social Justice issues.

B. COMMUNITY LIFE: Lewis Brooks. The Shrove Tuesday dinner went well and was featured on Real to Reel. Regarding events, we need to set dates with the Knights of Columbus for coffee after Masses once a month. Fr. Brian reminded the group that we do have tents for inclement weather. It may be nice to have a potluck dinner in Otis as well. For Otis, we discussed possibly having donuts and coffee after Easter Mass and hand out Easter candies.

C. COMMUNICATIONS: Fr. Matt. Formed is up to 81 subscribers. Flocknote: There are 286 emails in the system. The bulletins are now being sent out weekly with attachments and we are able to track how many people open links. There has been positive feedback about Flocknote from inside and outside the Parish. Fr. Matt has been sending the weekly emails, Karen will train on how to send out the email as well. Fr. Matt uses templates for each week and updates with current events. Fliers can be scanned in for events. PDFs can also be formed using online clipart. People can send any events they want posted to Fr. Matt. Fr. Brian feels we should also send reminders about food pantry donations or drives ongoing as well. We can also post a link to CRS to help Ukraine.

D. SPIRITUAL LIFE: Holy Week: we are almost complete for sign ups for all Masses. First Communion and Confirmations will be the weekend of April 30 and May 1st. Finances: Finances are in good shape. Collections are generally up. Buildings and grounds: Parking lot behind SM and floors are to be redone. Otis-replaced fans and lights. St. Josephs: paint projects are on the horizon, trim and windows will be done this summer. School: new van will be a big cost.

E. FAITH FORMATION: Deacon Jim is retiring and we will need a new head person for Faith Formation at meetings. Charles will reach out to Kate Murray to see if she can attend meetings in future.

F. EVANGELIZATION: (Lewis) Committee had a Zoom meeting after last Council meeting. Lewis' wife Michelle helps with Baptisms and connecting with young families. Trish is going to communicate with Religious Education team. Chad is going to have "business" cards made up for members of Parish Council with our contact information in order to reach out to the Community. Fr. Brian is thinking

about having a “volunteer coordinator” position. It may also be beneficial to have a “Ministry fair” to discuss positions and get people to sign up.

- G. YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST: Laura. Laura met with the Oratory Committee. Fr. Gary will be hosting an evening of reflection in Westfield next Thursday at 6:30. Laura asked if he would host an event here. There will be a 40 hour devotion at the Shrine in May. Laura would like to have a workshop with Catechists and CCD teachers, she will talk to Kate Murray. We discussed starting a “Presence” group on Flocknote.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS: Fr. Brian had 3 listening sessions/Synods which were all very unique. In general, they tried to keep judgment out of the conversation and there was good commentary. Fr. Brian interviewed with Dick Lindsay this morning on Synodality for the Berkshire Eagle. Annual Catholic Appeal: we have goals for this year, but no report yet. Signage went up last week. Last year the Parish raised over \$25,000 and the goal is \$25,000 this year. The weekend of April 2nd Lori will speak at 4 pm Mass and Deacon Bob Esposito will speak at other Masses regarding the Food Pantry and Take and Eat.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS: Deacon Jim just turned 75 and retired! We thanked Jim for his years of service and friendship. He is looking forward to spending time with his family and travelling!

-Fr. Matt said a closing prayer.

-The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Erin Pollard