

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES 04/30/2018 6 PM ST.MARY'S SCHOOL

1. WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER by Jim McElroy, substitute chair for Charles Houff
2. ATTENDANCE AND MINUTES: Present: Bob Digan, Lynda Newton, Carol Lombardo, Jim McElroy, Joe Cox, Richard Lacey, Verna Houff, Fr. Brian McGrath, and Fr. Daniel Cymer. Absent: Charles Houff, Brenda Bianco, Sheila Viale, and Tom Finnegan. Guests: Maureen Digan, Abby Lacey. The minutes for 03/26/2018 were accepted by consensus.
3. CALENDAR
 - a. Fr. Brian wants all calendars for next year to be sent to him by the end of May (mid May even better).
 - b. Otis will have a Flea Market in August (date to be determined).
4. OLD BUSINESS
 - 4.1 Parish Census: Brenda has done lots of work on this project. It will be picked it up in June, possibly with the help of our new seminarian. Online census program has crashed several times lately.
 - 4.2 Active Shooter/Disaster Training: Greeter training will be May 9 after the 7 PM Mass. Greeters will learn who to call and when in emergency, as well as where first aid supplies are stored.
 - 4.3 The Hymn Board is being used. As part of setting up for each mass, the hymn board should be checked against Sandy's list of hymns for that service to be sure they match. In the Suggestion Box, there was a question about who the two saints are in the rear of the church. One is St. Rocco; Fr. B. believes the other is St. Rita. He will address in the bulletin. Fr. Brian received a letter from a Carmelite about "the lack of reverence before and after Mass" at St. Mary's. Fr. will respond to the letter and write a reminder to the parish with some suggestions for behavior entering and exiting the church. Ongoing efforts are being made to encourage more participation in singing the hymns.
 - 4.4 Lee Council of Aging: no update (For future agendas, this should be folded into Joe's Commission report).
 - 4.5 St. Mary's website/Parish App: Fr. Still looking for help with managing the Calendar and App.
 - 4.6 Corpus Christi: a Communion breakfast is being planned for Adorers after the 9AM Mass. Fr. Gary will be asked to speak.
5. COMMISSIONS
 - 5.1 Christian Service: Joe shared a list of those items consistently needed for the Food Pantry and Drive, including personal needs items. He also listed where people can get fresh produce and pet food. He will check about where/if baby formula is available. There will be ongoing bulletin announcements sharing these lists. The Personal needs collection is May5-13, 2018 and the Food Drive is June2-10, 2018.
 - 5.2 Community Life: Report on Polish Dinner's success. Ideas for future: different crews for set up, serving, cleaning up to not burn out volunteers. Use electric votives to avoid candle spills and need for cleanup. Goal: Polish Dinner in October; Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in March; Parish Picnic in summer. These are not fund raisers per se, but for building community life, having fun as parish.

- 5.3 Faith Formation: will meet tonight for future planning.
 - 5.4 Spiritual Life: Post Easter theme is “out of the church and into the world”. Currently, training for greeters, readers and ushers being emphasized.
 - 5.5 Finance: Each parish OK. St Josephs will be having new gas boiler installed. The rectory porch work is proceeding; siding work has begun. Installation of a delivery ramp is being explored to help meet the need for handicap access to the rectory.
6. NEW BUSINESS
- 6.1 Joe raises discussion about envelopes assigned, but not being used on a weekly basis. Any way to encourage giving?
 - 6.2 Our new seminarian, Stanislaus, will arrive Memorial Day weekend. He is from Nigeria, a third year seminarian.
 - 6.3 On the radar for possible future involvement: the Berkshire Interfaith Organization’s work on “sanctuary city” status for Berkshire County towns. Jim McElroy explains differences among illegal, undocumented and asylum seekers.
7. CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 05/31/2018 6 PM ST. MARY’S SCHOOL