



## PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 14, 2018

Rose Marie opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and Father Solomon offered the opening prayer.

**Present:** Deacon Dan Ackerson, Connie Benko, Deacon Jim Cadigan, Tom Carter, Father Cocco, Bill DelleDonne, Dawn Huss, Marie Kopf, Deacon Pete Nellius, Susan Ondish, Rose Marie Patin, Father Solomon, Deacon Jim Walls, Bob Wolhar.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the September 27, 2018 meeting were approved.

**PASTOR PRIORITIES:** Upgrading the steps in front of the Church is still moving ahead, and the large screen TV is now in the hall. The Staff Retreat went well, and Father relayed the compliments about the Parish made by others at the Convocation. He is still exploring a new statue of Mary to replace the one on the west side of the church, and perhaps developing a grotto for it.

**FINANCE COUNCIL:** Three people are being considered as new members of the finance council. Father Cocco confirmed that review of recipients of parish donations continues.

**FOLLOW-UPS:** Rose Marie suggested a remembrance for Pat Hearn. She and Father Cocco also mentioned that they have received expressions of appreciation for the Ministry Appreciation dinner on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was a discussion regarding repeating the dinner and the possible frequency. Photos for the new parish directory are scheduled for March 20-21-22-23 and for April 9-10-11 from 1:00 to 9:00 pm. Renewal of marriage vows will be on May 5, 2019 followed by a reception. Rose Marie suggested a meeting to discuss the take-aways from the Convocation on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and this will be arranged. One of the topics of interest was that of attracting and keeping parishioners, and another addressed our mission statement and the effectiveness of our outreach. There was also a lengthy discussion on how to encourage Catholics to return to active participation in the Church. Father Cocco suggested giving cards to those attending Masses intended for them to pass on to friends and family, inviting them to return.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Pat DeVoll sent a letter requesting that the group that makes quilts "Quilts of Love" be allowed to use the hall for their work sessions. Father Cocco is inclined to agree to their request and will be in touch with them. Bob Wolhar suggested that the parish consider increasing security at the church during Masses. After a lengthy discussion, Father Cocco plans to get in touch with the Delaware State Police to request an assessment.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

**LITURGY:** Connie thanked Father Solomon for the very successful parish mission. She also outlined coming calendar events which included the distribution of new missals in the pews on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Christmas concert on December 9<sup>th</sup> and the parish penance service on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**FAMILY LIFE:** Susan confirmed that November 18<sup>th</sup> will be the date for Coffee and Donuts, and the Foodie Club will meet on November 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, highlighting a Christmas theme.

**SALT AND LIGHT:** Bob Wolhar announced that the Giving Tree is being set up, and 500 gifts are anticipated this year. He also mentioned that with the loss of Pat Hearn the parish is in need of someone to head up the Good Samaritan ministry. Lynn Nellius has resigned from the International Student Dinner ministry, and a replacement is being sought. The Knights of Columbus have contributed a 56-seat bus for the trip to Washington for the March for Life on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The Baby Bottle campaign for the Sussex Pregnancy Center has been concluded and the amount of donations will be made available soon.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Marie reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> Graders would like to be altar servers. Las Posadas will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE:** Bill reported that the architectural plan for the front steps is awaiting Father Cocco's approval, and the next step will be to secure RFPs for construction. The plan includes heated steps in order to avoid salting them in icy conditions. Electronic fobs are planned for additional doors in the parish buildings. The actuator for the TV in the hall has arrived and needs to be installed.

**LRAC:** Two people are needed to represent the parish with LRAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm with the closing prayer offered by Father Cocco.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on January 16, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Carter  
Secretary