



PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

September 20, 2017

Present: Deacon Dan Ackerson, Connie Benko, Tom Carter, Father Cocco, Bill DelleDonne, Pat Hearn, Dawn Huss, Marie Kopf, Rose Marie Patin, Bob Wolhar

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 22, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Dawn Huss was welcomed as the new At-Large member of the Council. Father Cocco outlined the plan for the hall renovation as well as other possible changes such as the placement of the new tabernacle in the church on a pedestal behind the altar. There is a possibility of votive candles in the church. In the hall, the HVAC will be upgraded to six individual units in order to distribute air more evenly. The tabernacle in the church will be moved to the hall and installed in the wall. Options for floor replacement are still being investigated (Bill brought samples) as are options for the walls. The ceiling will gain a few inches in height when the current ducting is removed. Small changes in the kitchen are under consideration.

MINISTRY REPORTS

BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE: Work in the hall begins on September 25th with projected completion in November. Bill detailed modifications and revised space utilization in the hall after the renovation is completed. Bill is looking at options for locks to replace those on the sacristy doors, ideally a remote access lock.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS: There was a lengthy discussion regarding parish liability when various groups are using the hall. There was a consensus regarding the need for insurance riders when alcohol is being served. The web site continues to be under development by Deacon Dan and Marie. It was decided that the minutes of pastoral council meetings be posted on the web site beginning with the minutes of the May 2017 meeting. Pictures and profiles of pastoral council members will also be posted on the web site. Rose Marie inquired about the difficulty of some parishioners dealing with the challenge of the steps leading into the church.

STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship Sunday will be on November 12th, and Rose Marie mentioned that a daily reflection booklet on stewardship will be available. A lay minister meeting will be held on October 26th at 6:00 pm. A ministry appreciation event was discussed with a possible date in January or February.

LITURGY: Connie reported that Father Brian Lewis will lead the parish mission on November 12-14. The calendar of liturgical dates and special events through January 1st was passed out, and she mentioned that the Breaking Bread missalettes will have hard covers beginning with the new issue which will be in place on the first Sunday of December. Connie also reported that a movie about Fatima will be shown on October 13th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Marie detailed the program for involving parents with their children in religious education and in parish life, and she confirmed that Catechetical Sunday at the 9:00 Mass on September 17th was successful and will be continuing. There was a discussion regarding the issue of the Mass being crowded, and the next one will be on October 1st. On September 30th there will be a St. Vincent de Paul Walk from 2:00 to 3:00 for the poor.

LRAC: Pat reported that 9,000 dinners were served by the Food Rescue Program through the Community Resource Center. The Emmanuel Shelter plans to move to the Bethel Church on Route 9, and a considerable amount of money will be needed to support this.

SALT AND LIGHT: Bob reported that the Respect Life Chain will be at St. Jude parish on Route 1 on October 1st, and Father Cocco suggested that the Respect Life banner be displayed outside the church rather than inside. October 1st also introduces the baby bottle campaign to raise funds for the Sussex Pregnancy Care Center. As a part of 40 Days for Life, peaceful protests at the Planned Parenthood facility in Dover are planned for each Wednesday from 12-4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm with a closing prayer by Deacon Dan and Father's blessing.

NEXT MEETING: October 18, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Carter
Secretary