

Minutes of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

October 20, 2016

Parish Council: Fr. Robert Cole, Linda Butler, Jack Kubicki, Jr., Connie Loflin, Maria Mutnansky, Jack Secrist, Michael Todhunter
Kathy Gulish (secretary)

Absent: Deacon Tom, Susan Hanko, Carrol Wilhelm

Connie led the formation prayer at the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes from the September meeting were approved as resubmitted with the following corrections: corrected the typographical error in the misspelling of Dave Ockenga's name and corrected the date of the cookout for Parish and Finance Council members from August to September 1.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

a. Discussion of Mass time

Father Cole commented that with Nativity in South Amherst no longer having a Sunday morning Mass, there have been some new faces at our Masses. He also noted that a parishioner had expressed to him the wish that the family Mass on Christmas Eve might be held a little earlier than 5:00 PM. Given these events, Father asked for input from Council members on whether there should be any consideration of possibly changing our Mass times to better serve our parishioners. Father wondered if there was any need to consider changing the times and how he might best solicit input from parishioners to assess their feelings on the subject. Father asked Council members to give it some thought for further discussion at next month's Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Review of Grateful Giving initiative

This initiative was introduced recently and is just wrapping up. Father reviewed the rationale behind the Grateful Giving initiative; parishioners were being asked to consider their level of offering, since many had remained at the same level for a number of years, and to make an increase if possible. All households registered with the parish had received correspondence from Father outlining the Grateful Giving initiative. There have been over 75 responses thus far, generating a commitment for additional revenue of approximately \$500 per week. Father commented that this amount could possibly fluctuate if people were unable to follow through on their initial commitment.

b. Review of the Ministry Fair

Jack S. reported on the success of the Ministry Fair, commenting that there had been excellent participation by the ministries in creating displays and setting up tables at the fair. Jack believed that a few of the ministries reaped increased membership as a result of the fair. Jack suggested holding the Ministry Fair every other year rather than waiting several years before doing it again. Jack also commented that he had received an email inquiring if there were other ways to draw people into the ministries. Father said that he believed personal invitation was usually the best way to get people involved. Linda suggested that

Father might include something about participating in the various ministries in his annual state of the parish talk.

c. Cleaning the church before the holidays

There was a discussion to review how this had been approached last time. Most recalled that Father had a list of cleaning tasks that needed to be done and had given it to the group that was doing the cleaning. Father knows what Willie's normal duties encompass and had the group work on other areas that needed attention. Father will make an announcement and will also put a notice in the bulletin of the date of the next cleaning session; parishioners may then just show up to help with the cleaning. The projected date for cleaning will be Dec. 17, but this will be discussed further at the next Council meeting. People do not need to bring cleaning supplies, etc. as we already have most of what will be needed.

d. Annual parish picnic

At the last Council meeting, Father had talked about holding the annual parish picnic at one of the pavilions by the New Russia Township Lodge. Pros and cons were discussed, including the amenities associated with holding the picnic at that location, and Father had put a hold on the pavilion next to the Lodge for June 18, 2017. Father reported that he has signed an agreement to rent the pavilion for that date for our parish picnic. There had been some concern expressed as to whether we could use the indoor facility in the event of inclement weather or if people just wanted to get out of the sun, and Father said he will talk to Edie Taylor at the township office to see if there is a possibility of getting the trustee meeting room as well. There was also a discussion of the logistics of getting food and people to the facility after the outdoor Mass on the 18th. One solution that was proposed was for parishioners to bring food to the parish hall that morning before going to Mass, and a picnic committee could transport all the food over to the New Russia facility while Mass is occurring. Connie brought up that there would need to be a larger picnic committee to plan and implement this event, more than just the Vice Chairperson of Council, who is currently tasked with organizing the picnic. It was suggested that perhaps a committee could be formed over the winter months to begin working on plans for the picnic.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Parish Council discernment process

Jack S. reported that there were at least a couple of people who seemed firmly committed to being considered for the two Parish Council positions and were ready to proceed with the questionnaire. Additionally, there was at least one other person who was still thinking about it. Jack expressed the hope that there would minimally be two or three candidates for consideration at next month's discernment process.

b. Increased fellowship among parishioners

Jack S. reported that Susan had attended Spiritual Life's meeting last month, and they are seeking ways to increase the fellowship among parishioners. Jack indicated that Susan could provide more information about it at next month's meeting for further discussion.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

- **Finance:**

Father reported that we had our audit by the diocesan office last spring. Although there were no significant issues, representatives from the diocesan finance office will be here on the 29th to discuss their findings with Finance Council.

- **IHN:**

We will host again the week of Nov. 20. We will also adopt a family from IHN for Christmas. Some of the funding IHN receives through grants has been cut so they are attempting to do some fundraisers, mostly for operating costs. There was a pancake breakfast and a clam bake, and they will be holding a reverse raffle. Details are still being worked out, but Jack K. can get information on it. The dates for us to host in 2017 are the weeks of March 5, June 11, October 15, and December 3

- **LIFT:**

The last meeting was Oct. 4, and the next meeting will be Nov. 1 at 7:00 PM. Discussion leaders will be Judy Kruger and Kathy Secrist.

- **PSR:**

Preparation for confirmation on Nov. 5 is wrapping up. Doris Wald was the presenter at the confirmation retreat on Oct. 16. Abbot Gary Hoover will preside at confirmation. There are 23 students and 1 adult who are preparing to receive the sacrament.

October Presidium lessons are being presented. It is a diocesan requirement, and catechists went through training a few years ago to be able to teach them. Each lesson is age-appropriate for grades 1-6.

There will be a meeting for parents of 2nd graders in January to prepare for first reconciliation and first Communion.

- **Peace and Justice:**

They met on Oct. 6. The Birthright baby bottle collection drive will conclude at the end of October. It was reported that a good number of people had taken bottles.

Three teams from our parish have been formed to help with sponsoring a refugee family. The diocese sets up the housing, and the Sacred Heart teams help implement the program, following the directives of the diocese. This includes aspects of adjustment such as arranging for schooling and language classes. Father commented what a powerful ministry this is, to help these refugees become independent and resettled.

Peace and Justice has proposed a program to be held after the first of the year to educate families on the opiate crisis and what might be done to protect their children. A panel discussion was suggested, composed of people who have been involved in battling substance abuse. Members of Peace and Justice will discuss this proposal with Father Cole.

Their next meeting will be Nov. 3 at 7:00 PM.

- **Social Programming:**

Nothing to report at this time.

- **Spiritual Life:**

Father Norm Douglas will be returning as a presenter for the Lenten program in 2017. Ten women from our parish will be participating in the women's renewal at St. Joe's this weekend, Oct. 21 and 22.

- **Sunshine Committee:**

Seven cards were sent out.

- **Youth Group:**

There was a meeting last week. They have planned out their calendar for the next couple of months. There will be another meeting on Oct. 23.

The next meeting of Parish Pastoral Council will be November 17 at 7:00 PM in the education building. Following the regular meeting, Parish Council will retire to executive session for the discernment process to select new Council members to fill the seats being vacated by Jack Secrist and Connie Loflin.

Formation Prayer: Linda