

Minutes of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

November 17, 2016

Parish Council: Fr. Robert Cole, Deacon Thomas Daw, Linda Butler, Susan Hanko, Connie Loflin, Maria Mutnansky, Jack Secrist, Michael Todhunter, Carrol Wilhelm

Kathy Gulish (secretary)

Absent: Jack Kubicki, Jr.

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

MINUTES: The minutes from the October meeting were approved as submitted.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

a. Advent communal penance service

St. Patrick's parish in Wellington has asked if they could take part in our Advent communal penance service to be held on Dec. 11. As part of a collaborative effort, therefore, priests from St. Patrick's will be here during the service as additional confessors.

b. IHN

Sacred Heart will be hosting IHN the week of Dec. 18. We were not originally scheduled to host the week leading up to Christmas, but the need for a host church arose and we were able to fulfill that need.

c. Parish picnic

Father had previously discussed holding our annual parish picnic in June at the New Russia Township pavilion due to the amenities associated with the outdoor facility. Father has reserved the pavilion for Sunday, June 18, 2017. However, Council members had questioned whether there could be access to indoor facilities as well in case people did not want to sit out in the heat. Father has also been able to reserve the Trustee Meeting Room, which is in close proximity to the pavilion and will give us access to kitchen facilities.

d. Grateful Giving

Father reported that the Grateful Giving campaign has basically concluded at this point. He believed that the campaign was successful as we were able to increase the amounts pledged weekly by those who were already using the envelopes as well as those who had not been using the envelopes regularly in the past. In total, there was a \$753.75 increase in the amount pledged weekly. Father indicated that although there may be some who will not be able to follow through with their pledge, it was still a significant response.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Christmas Eve Mass schedule

Father had reported previously that he had been approached by a parishioner asking if the time for the Christmas Eve Mass could be earlier. Father had

discussed it with Council and concluded that the time for the Mass would need to remain at 5:00 PM this year since that time had already been published. However, Father indicated that he planned to put the question as to whether the time should be changed to parishioners at the 5:00 Christmas Eve Mass; he would simply take a quick survey (show of hands) of those in attendance and base his decision on the results. The time for the midnight Mass will not change; it will remain at midnight.

b. Church cleaning, Saturday, Dec. 17

Anyone who wants to help with the holiday cleaning of the church should meet at 1:00 PM on Saturday, Dec. 17. Parishioners may bring cleaning supplies if they want, but we do have some supplies available for use. The cleaning will encompass tasks above and beyond the general cleaning that Willie does. The date and time will be announced a couple of weeks beforehand and will also be put in the bulletin.

c. "Faith Is Fun"

Susan reported that Spiritual Life had discussed the idea of increasing fellowship amongst parishioners. As part of that initiative, Olivia Sliman, from St. Joseph parish, will give a presentation entitled "Faith Is Fun" on Dec. 3 after the 5:00 Mass. All parishioners are invited; her program appeals to all ages and is designed to not only entertain but to share experiences of faith. Pizza will be served at 6:00, and her presentation will begin at approximately 6:30. Following the program, the ladies from LIFT will provide dessert. Olivia has ideas for extending the program if we are inclined to do so, but we will wait to see how parishioners respond to her talk before making any further commitment. Deacon Tom has created an event on Facebook so that parishioners may confirm if they are planning to attend. Information on the program will also be in the bulletin.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Annual Parish Council Christmas party

The annual Parish Council Christmas party will be on Dec. 15 at 6:00 PM at the rectory. Spouses are invited as well. Please bring a dish to share (finger food or dessert). There is not usually a regular business meeting, but incoming members to Council are invited and introduced.

b. Discernment process to select new members

Parish Council retired to Executive Session to complete the discernment process to select two new members of Parish Council to replace Jack Secrist and Connie Loflin, whose terms are ending December, 2016. Those who wished to be considered for Parish Council had submitted answers to a questionnaire and had affirmed that they had been confirmed and were available for meetings. Following the discernment process, it was announced that Sharon Miller and Daniel Steinacker had been selected to fill the two positions; their terms will begin January, 2017, and conclude December, 2019.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

• Finance:

The next meeting of Finance Council will be Nov. 29. A member of the diocesan finance office will be present to review findings of the routine audit that was conducted recently.

- **IHN:**

We will be hosting the week of Nov. 20 – 27. We have also picked up the week leading up to Christmas as no other church was available to do it.

We have adopted a family for Christmas; details will be forthcoming.

Collections will be taken up after Mass at some point to help in purchasing gifts for the family.

There will also be an extra collection in February to benefit IHN as they have lost some of their sources of funding. Deacon Tom will talk to his contact at McDonald's in Oberlin to see if they might be able to do a fundraiser to benefit IHN/Family Promise. Father commented that this might raise awareness of IHN and Family Promise and the work they do. He believes that people in Oberlin would likely be willing to help if they were aware of IHN. After Deacon finds out if a fundraiser through McDonald's is possible, they will broach the subject with the director of Family Promise.

- **LIFT:**

They are focusing on the "Faith Is Fun" program and will be providing desserts for after the presentation. They are discussing inviting some speakers to their meetings, but those plans are still in progress.

- **PSR:**

Confirmation was on Nov. 5 and went well. There will be no PSR on the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

- **Peace and Justice:**

The Birthright baby bottle campaign seemed to have been successful. It was reported that they had raised over \$1800.

Volunteers have completed the orientation process for the refugee family project. Parishioners who have volunteered for this program are: Ted Chmura, Stephanie Chmura Baker, Kelly Garriett Waite, Kathy Spencer, Lori Taylor, Corey Barnes, and Matthew Prill. Those who have undergone training are able to interact directly with the refugee family while those who have not been trained may assist. A refugee family is expected to be assigned in January. Some furniture has been donated, but there are still a number of items that are needed. Those items will be listed in a future issue of our church bulletin so that parishioners may donate if they wish.

Sue Palmieri has arranged for a panel presentation on the opiate epidemic to be held at Sacred Heart in January. Panelists will include Coroner Stephan Evans and representatives from the LCADA Way as well as the Oberlin police department.

It was reported that 5 people had signed up through the Ministry Fair to join Peace and Justice.

A workshop on gifts of the spiritual tradition will be presented by Jessie Ferriols and the Rev. Nancy Roth on Dec. 2 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM at the First Church Fellowship Hall. The workshop will feature the Aramaic perspective.

- **Social Programming:**

Lenten fish fries have been scheduled for the two Fridays prior to Good Friday.

- **Spiritual Life:**

Spiritual Life met on Nov. 10. They strongly support the "Faith Is Fun" program to be presented by Olivia Sliman. They tabled, for now, the idea of conducting a survey of spiritual needs in our parish.

The topic "Resilient Life" was chosen for the next parish mission, to be conducted by Fr. Norm Douglas and Larry (the Lawyer) Vuillemin on March 19-21, 2017.

Ruth Steinacker had described her involvement with Formational Prayer, a form of healing prayer, and Spiritual Life decided that they would like to introduce it to our parish in the near future.

Copies of Matthew Kelly's new book Resisting Happiness will be available to each household at the Christmas Masses.

- **Sunshine Committee:**

Five cards have been sent out.

- **Youth Group:**

Youth Group held a meeting this past Sunday. They made 10 blankets. The next meeting will be to distribute gifts at Welcome Nursing Home.

The next meeting of Parish Pastoral Council will be Dec. 15 at 6:00 PM in the rectory. This will be the annual Christmas gathering. Father Cole will lead the formation prayer. The first meeting of the new year will be January 19 at 7:00 PM in the education building. Maria will lead the formation prayer. A new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be elected at this meeting.