

Minutes of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

September 15, 2016

Parish Council: Fr. Robert Cole, Deacon Thomas Daw, Linda Butler, Susan Hanko, Jack Kubicki, Jr., Connie Loflin, Maria Mutnansky, Jack Secrist, Michael Todhunter,
Kathy Gulish (secretary)
Absent: Carrol Wilhelm

Jack S. led the formation prayer at the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes from the May meeting were approved with the following amendments: corrected the spelling of Anne Linden's name

PASTOR'S REPORT:

a. Grateful Giving

Father Cole reviewed the Grateful Giving initiative that is being introduced at Mass. Father explained that only about 80 families are using the weekly envelopes on a regular basis, and many parishioners have stayed at the same level of giving for a number of years. This initiative is just asking people to assess their level of giving and consider increasing their weekly amount as possible.

b. Parking lot project

The parking lot has been repaved, and a crosswalk was put in from the education building to the church as a safety measure for the children walking over from PSR.

c. Transitions board

The transitions board, built by Dave Ockenga, is on display at the rear of the church. Father expressed the hope that the transitions board would represent the parish as a living, breathing reality and would recognize life transitions such as baptisms, joining the parish, or those who had passed away.

d. IHN issues

At the last meeting, a concern was raised that some of the volunteers for IHN did not feel that they were trained sufficiently to address some of the issues with which the families were dealing. Father relayed that IHN had been made aware of this concern, and they would be addressing that issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Transitions bulletin board

Kathy reported that, currently, there are pictures of several baptisms, one newly registered member, and two parishioners who passed away. The pictures will be left on display for an extended time or until they need to be removed to accommodate more recent pictures. Deacon Tom suggested that he and/or Father could encourage families to have a picture taken for the board when they do baptisms.

b. Ministry Fair

The Ministry Fair will be held after both Masses the weekend of October 8 and 9. Jack S. reported that most of the ministries had been contacted by letter in August, inviting them to participate. Jack also has been calling the contact people for the various ministries and encouraging them to set up a display and to have representatives available to talk to parishioners about their ministry. Hopefully, this will result in increased participation in the ministries.

c. Parish Council discernment process for Oct. – Dec.

Jack S. reviewed the process that will take place over the next few months. There will be bulletin announcements the last weekend in September and the first weekend in October. The information sessions are to be held the first two weekends in October; however, the second weekend will conflict with the Ministry Fair. It was suggested that the information sessions be held on the first and the third weekends instead, which would still allow enough time for nominations prior to the October Council meeting.

d. Newsletter

The deadline for the second issue is very close. The hope is to have the newsletter out around the first week of October. Jack S. and Kathy will compose and submit a brief article to the newsletter outlining the discernment process for selection to Parish Council.

e. Parish nursing ministry

The parish nursing ministry screenings have been occurring once a month, after both Masses. There has been a dwindling number of people taking advantage of it recently. However, the plan is to continue the program for at least 9 – 12 months and then assess the program. The ministry is always held the second weekend of the month, after both Masses, and there have been reminders in the bulletin. Jack S. reported that those who have attended have been enthused about the program. Connie commented that we never know when a health issue will arise, and it is their mission to catch and address potential issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Parish picnic, 2017

At the annual picnic on September 1 for Parish Council and Finance Council, Father had brought up the idea of moving the parish picnic in June to one of the pavilions at the New Russia Township Hall complex, which is located only a few miles from the church. This past June, the picnic had to be held in the education building due to not having an outside facility. Father acknowledged the attempts to make the hall festive with decorations and indicated that although the indoor location seemed to be well received, he believed that it just lacked the picnic atmosphere that could be achieved by holding it outside. Thus, Father proposed relocating the picnic to the New Russia Township facility, next to the Lodge. Father reported that it is a very nice, large pavilion with a playground, baseball field, and restroom located nearby. The picnic would normally be held on June 25, 2017, but the pavilion was already booked for that date so Father suggested holding it on June 18, 2017. The outdoor Mass would be on the 18th, and then parishioners could go over to the pavilion for the picnic. Father has asked that a

hold be put on the pavilion for June 18, 2017 but will continue to check on details for further discussion, such as whether it would be possible to use indoor facilities as well, if needed.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

- **Finance:**

The last meeting of Finance Council was Sept. 1. The next meeting will be Nov. 29.

- **IHN:**

There was a fish fry fundraiser, held at our facilities. The next time we will host is the week of Nov. 20. The dates for hosting in 2017 have not been determined yet.

- **LIFT:**

Cindy Sanders has suggested changing the structure of LIFT: each month, two members will facilitate the discussion rather than the same person each time. Next month, Polly Bratton and Tracy Leverknight will be the facilitators. The next meeting is Oct. 4.

- **PSR:**

Classes started September 11. Father Cole greeted the students in each classroom and presented them with medals from Italy that had been blessed by Pope Francis. It was reported that the children were very excited to receive them. It was also reported that there have been many complimentary comments on the quilt that the PSR students and staff made. Confirmation classes will start again in October. Doris Wald will be the presenter for the confirmation retreat on October 16. Confirmation will be held on November 5th, with Benedictine Abbot Gary Hoover presiding. The abbot is requiring the confirmandi to present a skit on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- **Peace and Justice:**

Peace and Justice met September 1. They talked about the Shelter the Homeless Campaign, chaired by Ted Chmura and Lori Taylor. They are seeking three families from our parish to help sponsor a refugee family, to be housed on the west side of Cleveland. October is the Birthright Baby Bottle campaign. Baby bottles will be offered the first weekend of October with instructions that they should be taken home, filled with loose change, and brought back by the end of the month. Peace and Justice also participated in a human trafficking campaign over the summer; the idea was that people would visit hotels (with the owners' permission) and distribute bars of soap that had the number of the Human Trafficking Hotline on them. Carol Lalonde was trained and visited motels in Lorain to drop off bars of soap.

- **Social Programming:**

Nothing planned at this time.

- **Spiritual Life:**

No report at this time.

- **Sunshine Committee:**

Since August, 2015, Sunshine Committee has sent out 18 sympathy cards, 7 congratulations cards, 13 get well cards, 15 welcome cards, 12 thinking of you cards, and 3 baptism cards, for a total of 68 cards.

- **Youth Group:**

Michael reported that the youth group did not have any activities over the summer months. They have a meeting this Sunday and are hoping to pick up a few new members this year.

The next meeting of Parish Pastoral Council will be October 20 at 7:00 PM in the education building.

Formation Prayer: Connie