

Minutes of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

February 18, 2016

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

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

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

PASTOR'S REPORT:

a. Seder meal

As discussed at a previous meeting, Jack Kubicki had expressed to Father that he had received some lamb meat and had thought that perhaps it could be used for a Seder meal this year. Father had discussed the idea of having a Seder meal with Council but since it seemed to fall under the auspices of Spiritual Life, he had referred the decision to Spiritual Life commission. After discussion, Spiritual Life reported that they felt they could not manage it at this point so, unfortunately, had to turn down the offer. They felt, however, that there was a possibility that they might be able to do a Seder meal in the future.

b. Interest generated from newsletter article

Following an article in the diocesan magazine *Northeast Ohio Catholic* about our efforts to maintain the viability of our parish through the recent sale of the old rectory and new building project, Father reported that he had received some inquiries from other parishes who are also facing the same situation. They were interested in the process we went through and the issues involved.

c. Ministries' responses to questionnaire

Father reported that he has received 2 responses thus far. He has requested that the various ministries respond by early April so he should be able to report on the results in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Parish nursing program update

Carrol reported that she has a list of names of parishioners in the medical profession (although not necessarily nurses) who she will be contacting about possibly heading up the program. Carrol indicated that we will start with a very basic program, such as blood pressure screenings, that may take place in conjunction with Coffee Hour weekends since those are held once a month. Carrol is continuing to work on developing our parish nursing program. Jack S. and Connie both volunteered to help out with the program.

b. Facility Advisory Committee

Father has invited Cindy Sanders to be on the committee and reported that Ted Chmura is also interested in serving on it. Father said that he has a couple more

names in mind of people who might be interested and indicated that he would like to have at least 3 people serve on the committee.

c. Newsletter update

Maria, Carrol, and Cindy met to discuss the newsletter. Carrol mentioned that she has two other people who are interested in helping on the newsletter. At this point, they are thinking of putting a notice in the bulletin for volunteers who would like to work on the newsletter. They are also seeking someone to take charge of the newsletter, planning and organizing it. Father commented that he doubted that we would be able to produce a color version of the newsletter each time as it would be too cost prohibitive. Maria shared that she knew of another parish which was able to get their newsletter printed for free, but Father indicated that he was not sure if our contract with the company that publishes our bulletin would allow for the printing of a newsletter also.

d. Church cleaning committee

Last year, Council engaged in a lengthy discussion about the possibility of setting up a committee to act as a church cleaning group that might come in once a month or at some other regular interval to do some general cleaning. However, no final decision was made regarding actually setting up a committee. Maria suggested that there may not be a need for a committee; rather, it might be something that could be advertised in the bulletin, letting people know which day we will be cleaning and asking for volunteers. Father agreed that we could try doing it that way and see if we get a sufficient response. If it doesn't work out, we can then move to the next step. It was suggested that perhaps it would be good to do some general cleaning in the church before Holy Week, Advent, and once in the summer. Jack K. commented that this would be a good opportunity for any young people who need service hours. Discussion also centered around the need to have a list of tasks to be completed, ones that do not overlap with the jobs already performed by our church custodian, as well as the need to have an order to the tasks so that we are not inadvertently creating double the work. Father commented that he would like a few volunteers to just walk around the church with him and go over the types of things that need to be done; several members of Council volunteered to assist him.

e. Stations of the Cross

Parish Council will lead Stations of the Cross on March 4.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Replacement member for vacant Council seat

Father has appointed Jack Kubicki, Jr. as a replacement on Parish Council for Chad Grude, who was not able to complete his term. Chad's/Jack's term will end December, 2017.

b. Gift/recognition for the previous Council chairperson

Linda inquired if something specific was done as a thank you to a previous Council chairperson, beyond a verbal recognition. After some discussion, the prevailing feeling was that serving on Council is really a volunteer service, and although individual members of Council could certainly send a thank you card to a previous Council member as they saw fit, no special award or recognition was expected or given.

c. Parish library

Eric Carpenter and Joe Palmieri had maintained our parish library, but they are ready to retire from that responsibility. Carrol questioned if someone else would take it over. Father explained that the library had been organized by author but suggested that perhaps a way to generate renewed interest could be to organize by topic, such as Scripture, Children's Literature, etc. During discussion of the library, one issue that was raised was that the library is housed in the Sacristy. That location is not really accessible directly before or after Mass because people are getting ready for Mass or are counting the money after Mass. Carrol suggested that a note might be put in the bulletin to remind people of the library, and Susan suggested that some people might want to donate current books for the library. Father indicated that he felt the issue of the parish library was one that should be addressed by Spiritual Life, and Susan and he both said they would talk to Eric about it.

d. Windows in the education building

Maria noted that a parishioner had asked about the rather drafty windows in the education building. Father had previously talked to L.I.F.T. about the possibility of putting up curtains. Father commented that the issue of putting in new and/or more efficient windows would be a huge undertaking and would be the type of thing that might be considered by the newly-formed Facility Advisory Committee.

f. Fish Fry

Jack K. brought a copy of the flyer advertising the fish fry to show Council. He explained that they have added shrimp to their menu this year because some people preferred shrimp to fish. The fish fry will be advertised on WOBL, and tickets will be sold starting this weekend.

g. Letter from Dolores Bean

Dolores reported that Altar and Rosary Society had made 676 rosaries that have been distributed to various organizations.

h. Event for Kyle Riggs

Carrol brought up that there was an upcoming race to benefit Kyle Riggs. She felt that it would be nice if parishioners could help by forming teams or providing other means of support. Father indicated that if Carrol could get information on the event, it could be published in the bulletin.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

• **Finance:**

The next meeting is March 10.

• **IHN:**

The blanket drive will be at the end of the month. The 2016 schedule for hosting is complete; our dates are the weeks of April 17, May 8, June 12, and November 20.

- **LIFT:**

Linda reported that there had been discussion of forming a committee to welcome newcomers to the parish. The thought was that perhaps when new parishioners joined, their pictures, with their names, could be displayed so that others could welcome them. Father felt that it was not really necessary to form a committee to generate ideas on how to welcome new members. Council members noted that some people want a certain amount of privacy but also noted that it would be appropriate to at least ask people if they minded having their picture displayed. Council members suggested that some type of "Transitions" board be created – a bulletin board to display the pictures and names of new parishioners, babies who had been baptized, parishioners who had passed away, etc. Linda said that she would take these ideas back to L.I.F.T.

- **PSR:**

There are 10 students in the 2nd grade class for First Communion. Their First Reconciliation and Retreat is Feb. 27. This is when they create their banners, bake bread, and share a meal together as well as receive the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time. Confirmation preparation classes started in January with Chuck Leverknight. They are using a program from Dynamic Catholic – Decision Point with Matthew Kelly. During Lent, the PSR students in grades 3 – 8 are being offered individual confession during class time. Each Sunday is designated for a different grade level. Father Cole speaks to the students as a group before confession in the church. The PSR students are in the process of creating a new quilt, with the help of some of the parishioners as well as the Kubickis. Each student designs his/her own square.

- **Peace and Justice:**

On March 10 and March 17, Peace and Justice will sponsor a program titled "Caring for God's Creation." They do have a facilitator who will be present for the program. Peace and Justice received a letter from the church in Santa Elena asking if we could possibly contribute \$4269 for musical instruments. They replied that since we are a small church with modest resources, we must decline their request. The Catholic Action Commission of Lorain County's annual dinner will be held on March 5 at Sacred Heart Chapel in Lorain. Peace and Justice will lead Stations of the Cross on Feb. 19.

- **Social Programming:**

There will be a Fish and Shrimp Fry on March 11 and on March 18.

- **Spiritual Life:**

Spiritual Life is assessing the Mission with Fr. Norm Douglas that was recently completed. They asked for feedback from members of Council and suggestions for possible future missions. Father commented that there were about 80 people the first day of the mission and then a few less on successive days, but he felt that it was still a very good turnout overall. Jack S. said that he thought the mission went very well – high energy and quite well done. Spiritual Life is moving ahead with plans to begin offering Healing Prayer after Sunday Mass. There will be training on Feb. 18 and Feb. 25.

- **Sunshine Committee:**

A total of 7 cards were sent out last month.

- **Youth Group:**

Youth Group held their retreat in January. They made rosaries and, after Mass, talked about how to pray the rosary. At their last meeting, they discussed Lent and completed the ministries questionnaire.

The next meeting of Parish Pastoral Council will be March 17 at 7:00 P.M. in the education building.

Formation Prayer: Connie