

DATE: 24 APRIL 2016
RE: APRIL PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Fr. Scott, Fr. Ixon, Terry Beecroft, Karen Bucyk, Carol Casey, Gene Cote, Marc Dodier, Maureen Donohue, Marian Hefron, Jack Luz, Dianne Mills, Ed Mills

The meeting was held at the Star of the Sea Parish's Father Morgan Hall. The meeting started with an opening prayer provided by Marian Hefron.

It was decided by the Pastoral Council that prior to each month's meeting, a report would be distributed giving the updates on certain projects that do not necessarily need to be discussed at the meetings:

Maureen Donahue gave an update on the Merrimack Valley Project – It was decided that this needed some more research and that it might be a consideration for the Social Justice Group.

Fr. Scott has asked Kathy Larsen to research various Confirmation programs. *Chosen* published by Ascension Press has been selected.

The Pilgrimage has 15 Parishioners signed up and the tour group is looking for 20. Sacred Hearts Parish in Bradford has agreed to publicize the pilgrimage.

1,000,000 Works of Mercy – Even though the collaborative has submitted up to 60,000 acts of Mercy, the effort seems to be making the parishioners more aware of their merciful actions on a daily basis. We are aware of 8 other parishes following our lead.

Friends of St Monica – A group has been formed and will be meeting again on May 15 to discuss adult children who are no longer following their faith.

Knights of Columbus – The goal of 20 members has been reached. Recruitment continues.

Steubenville East – 10 of our recently confirmed teens have been offered the opportunity to attend.

Parishioner Use of the Hall – Fr. Scott will be meeting with Karen, Joanne and Ed for further research on this project.

The Pastoral Council also discussed its role in the Pastoral Plan.

Having 1 Pastoral Council member, 1 Parish Finance Council member, and 1 Pastoral Plan Writing Team member from each Church on the 3 Pastoral Plan teams as well as the hospitality ministry.

The Council discussed ideas on how inform the Parishioners on the upcoming changes to take place. It was also suggested to have a kick-off potluck dinner among the Pastoral Writing Team, Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Councils, staff and Priority Teams so we have a unified approach to our pastoral plan and its implementation. A Holy Hour would be held before the dinner.

The Council discussed Holy Week and Easter. –

The Council suggested streaming the 9:00 am Easter Mass at Star of the Sea, in the lower Church to accommodate the overcrowding issue. Fr. Scott suggested opening the Beach Chapel for an Easter Mass or offering an additional Mass on Easter Sunday. The opening of the Star of the Sea Parish Town Church on Good Friday was also discussed. There needs to be more discussion on the logistics of these ideas.

Fr. Scott also discussed a Mass schedule change to add an additional Sunday Mass in the collaborative. It was suggested that a Sunday evening Mass at one of our parishes may be an option.

Terry Beecroft discussed the upcoming Relay for Life and the Living Water Catholic Team – Looking for participants and donations, as well as fundraising ideas. Marian Hefron has shown interest. Terry will be meeting with her on May 7th. Last year's captain is unable to take the lead this year. Fr. Scott has been invited to say the Opening Prayer.

Fr. Scott discussed organizational changes taking place:

Fr. Ixon will be transferring as of May 29. Fr. Chris Wallace, currently serving in Dracut, Lowell, and Tyngsborough, will be the new Parochial Vicar for the collaborative starting June 1st.

The Collaborative will be hiring a Director of Lifelong Faith Formation to oversee the Faith Formation part of the Pastoral Plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 22nd at Star of the Sea Parish.

Refreshments for the next meeting will be provided by Terry Beecroft.

Fr Scott and Terry to discuss social hour for Fr. Ixon.

Opening Prayer will be provided by Maureen Donahue and closing Prayer will be provided by Marc Dodier.