

DATE: 21 FEBRUARY 2016
RE: FEBRUARY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Fr. Scott, Fr. Ixon, Terry Beecroft, Karen Bucyk, Marc Dodier, Maureen Donohue, Joanne Levesque, Jack Luz, Dianne Mills, Ed Mills

The meeting was held at the Holy Family Parish Lower Church. The meeting started with an opening prayer provided by Marc Dodier.

Guest Speaker was Luke Hill from Merrimack Valley Project. Mr. Hill gave a brief overview of the Merrimack Valley Project and how that organization may help us in the future. It consists of primarily church groups and focuses on self-interest. Pastoral Council members are asked to pray and think about this in preparation for a discussion at our next meeting.

Ed Mills and Marc Dodier gave an update on the Knights of Columbus. Some members have made the 1st Degree, including Fr. Ixon. There are 14 registered members. Need 6 more to make an official Council.

Fr. Scott gave an update on the Disciples in Mission and how we can go about encouraging more people to participate. One suggestion was to invite the different ministry groups to attend an informal gathering to go over the Pastoral Plan and how they may assist in it. Joan Orlando, Pam Gosselin and Bev Fournier have shown interest in being part of the Plan. It was suggested to have an additional meeting set up with the Disciple in Mission trainees to get more of them involved as well. Another suggestion was to have members of the council contact those that showed initial interest by phone. Dianne Mills will email the names of the 40 interested to the council members, to find out if they are interested in any of the priorities set forth in the Pastoral Plan.

How to Draw Your Kids Back to Church –

Fr. Scott discussed the Tips and Strategies Videos with the idea of having an informal meeting about this video series.

The Council discussed the Best Lent Ever website. It has received positive feedback.

Fr. Scott discussed the possibility of have a study group formed to look into the possibility of parishioners being able to use the parish hall facilities for functions. Ed Mills, Joanne Levesque and Karen Bucyk to form that study group.

Pastoral Plan –

It was discussed as to how to make more of the parishioners aware of the plan and how they can take part in its implementation. 3 teams will be formed to cover the 3 priorities with the possibility of the parish council taking part in those teams.

Lent/Year of Mercy –

- Catholic Hospitality workshop has seven parishioners attending on February 27.
- 3 night Lenten Retreat from Feb 28 – March 1 with different preacher each night.
- Day Retreat to the Little Sisters in Danville, NH on March 12. 16 registered to date.
- Bible Study classes on Mondays. About 20 participants.
- 24 Hours for the Lord (Masses, confessions, Eucharistic Adoration) taking place March 4-5. Signup sheets are being tallied for Church coverage. As part of this Year of Mercy event, the opportunity to feed the poor will take place at the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence on Saturday, March 5th. It was decided that the Pastoral Council will be volunteering their assistance for the hospitality during that event.
- Pilgrimage, Saints & Basilicas of Upstate New York, Oct 3 thru Oct 6. 5 officially registered, others committed to it. 20 needed.

The Council suggested to have an Easter Card sent to the parishioners, giving Holy Week schedule.

Easter – greeters were assigned for the 3-night retreat, Palm Sunday Masses, as well as Easter Vigil and Easter morning Masses. Fr. Scott suggested that the Pastoral Council members wear name tags to encourage a gateway moment for parishioners to inquire about the Council and its purpose.

Fr. Scott also discussed a Mass schedule change to allow the possibility of a one priest being able to cover it. It was suggested that the change to make this possible on Sunday morning with the least disruption is Star of the Sea Parish to move the 11am Mass to Noon time. Further discussion is needed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13.

Refreshments for the next meeting will be provided by Dianne Mills.

Opening Prayer will be provided by Carol Casey and closing Prayer will be provided by Fr. Ixon.