

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

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Fr. Scott, Fr. Ixon, Terry Beecroft, Karen Bucyk, Carol Casey, Gene Cote, Marc Dodier, 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 Dianne Mills.

Fr. Scott gave an update on the pastoral plan and how we can go about encouraging more people to familiar with it. 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. It was also suggested to have an additional meeting set up with the Forming Disciple in Mission trainees to get more of them involved as well.

Christmas Outreach –

- The Christmas cards that were sent out had positive feedback. Many parishioners were grateful to receive them and were especially pleased that it contained the Mass schedule.
- About 1,000 Rediscover Jesus books were distributed at all the Christmas Masses. It was suggested that we give the remaining books and a calendar as a welcome gift to any new parishioner.
- Discussed the possibility of new hours for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses for 2016.

Year of Mercy (18Dec2015 and 20Nov2016) & Lent 2016

- pilgrimage to the Saints and Basilicas of Upper New York (Oct 3-6, 2016). So far there are 5 people signed up and more are interested in signing up in the near future.
- Million Works of Mercy (spread to Tennessee, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and other Massachusetts parishes), local numbers are lower than needed to meet the goal, but encouraging
- 3 night Lenten Retreat (Feb 28 – March 1), Christ's Disciples, Transformed by Mercy – parish groups meeting during this time are encouraged to participate in the retreat
- Luke's Mercy Parables: 1. Day Retreat to the Little Sisters in Danville, NH on March 12 & Bible Study classes on Mondays
- "24 Hours for the Lord" (March 4-5) Pope Francis' world-wide initiative, Holy Family Parish selected to be 1 of 12 churches in the Archdiocese open for 24 hours. Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Works of Mercy. It was decided that the Pastoral Council will be volunteering their assistance for the hospitality during that event.

Fr. Scott and Jack Luz spoke about a couple of video series aimed at the teenagers preparing for Confirmation, that is provided by Dynamic Catholic Institute and also by Ascension Press.

Fr. Scott, Terry Beecroft and Jack Luz gave an update on the Baptism Reunion that took place on January 10, 2016 at HFP. The attendance was low but the event itself was successful. The Baptism Reunion scheduled for January 17, 2016 at the Star of the Sea Parish was cancelled due to low response. Baptized names were read during the Prayers of the Faithful and a short program following the Mass with light refreshments was offered.

Fr. Scott suggested that during the Baptism ceremony, as well as during the catechesis, to announce to the parents/Godparents that they are invited to a Baptism Reunion to be held at later date.

It was also suggested that a "Save the Date" card be given to the parents/Godparents as a reminder.

There has been positive feedback on the Question of the Week, Birthday Blessings and Anointing of the Sick.

There has been some interest in the startup of the Knights of Columbus Chapter. There are 11 people signed up so far. The First Degree meeting is taking place on Feb 18.

During open discussion, the idea of allowing parishioners to use parish spaces following sacramental celebrations was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21.

Refreshments for the next meeting will be provided by Karen Bucyk.

Opening Prayer will be provided by Marc Dodier and closing Prayer will be provided by Terry Beecroft.