

DATE: 22 MAY 2016
RE: MAY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Fr. Scott, Fr. Ixon, Deacon Paul, Terry Beecroft, Carol Casey, Marc Dodier, Maureen Donohue, Thea Gove, Marian Hefron, Joanne Levesque, Jack Luz, Dianne Mills, Ed Mills

The meeting was held at the Star of the Sea Parish Lower Church. The evening started with a light meal for Fr. Ixon, as this was his last Council meeting before moving on to his next assignment. The meeting started with an opening prayer provided by Maureen Donahue.

It was decided by the Parish 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:

The Pilgrimage - has 13 Parishioners signed up and the tour group is looking for 20. 1,000,000 Works of Mercy – Even though the collaborative has only 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 at least 8 other parishes that followed our lead and have started similar projects. The project is reported on in the summer edition of the Marian Helper magazine.

Knights of Columbus – The goal of 20 members has been reached. It was decided to meet twice per month. Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Star of the Sea Parish (business meeting) and on the 4th Thursday of the month (social meeting) at Holy Family Parish. Meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Steubenville East – We were not able to obtain a group of local high school students to participate. There are 2 local students that will be attending with the Holy Family Parish/Lowell group. We will continue to promote two other summer youth programs. A summer family movie night or camp fire night has been suggested.

Organization/Staff Changes – No word on Deacon Ray's status. No official announcement yet. The search has started for a Director of Lifelong Faith Formation. Fr. Scott will be receiving the resumes that best match our position description. The Parish Finance Council and staff will continue to explore different work schedules for the maintenance staff.

The council discussed the Priority Teams for the Pastoral Plan – Fr. Scott and Thea Gove will be members of the Vocation Team, Sandy (Buttry) and Joanne Levesque have signed on to the Faith Formation Team, Diane Mills and Kathy Cronin have signed on to the Hospitality Team, and Terry Beecroft is a possible Justice and Service Team member. Plans are underway for a Kick-Off Dinner in the Fall for the Parish Staff, Finance and Parish Council members, Plan Writing Team, Priority Teams and Hospitality Ministry.

Fr. Scott discussed an addition to the weekend Mass schedule that we are close to implementing. There will be a Sunday evening Mass 5:30. It will be at the Star of the Sea Parish during the school year. The intent is to have the Religious Education students take part in the Mass as part of their program. We discussed the possibility of having the Guitar Group play the music for the Mass. This Mass will be starting in September for the new school year.

Fr. Scott spoke about the Billboard located near the intersection of Rte. 150 and Rte. 110. The Parish has ownership of the billboard, will no longer need to pay property taxes on it, and will be able to make use of it.

Fr. Scott presented the idea of working with The Evangelical Catholic to promote small faith-sharing/evangelization groups in our parishes. We would start this fall with one small group of 8-12 members meeting weekly to deepen their faith and strengthen their evangelization and small group leadership skills. These group members would be asked to then split up to help launch 5 of these groups for Lent 2017. We would identify and help form additional leaders to go out and launch 10 small groups in the fall 2017.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26th at Star of the Sea Parish.
Refreshments for the next meeting will be provided by Joanne Levesque
Opening Prayer will be provided by Maureen Donahue and closing Prayer will be provided by Deacon Paul