

SS Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
March 17, 2016 @ St. Lucy

Members present : Fr. John Burkley, Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, Mike Hanish, Mike Hollowell, Scott Wojtasik, Deacon Greg, Donna Kolesar, Joan Spangler, Jacque Soltis, Ann Halstead and Jan Helt (Secretary)

Members not present : Nick and Fran Frank, Yvonne Tetzlaff and Kathleen Hyden.

Staff present: Karen Thrasher

Not present : Mel Joyce

Deacon Greg opened the meeting with the Gospel reading. Reflection followed.

Jacque S. stated that she wanted to confirm that she is the person who is supposed to pick up the suggestions at St Lucy from the suggestion box. She has checked twice and the suggestions have already been removed. Then she got the email that was sent to all PPC members from Yvonne that Scott sent to Yvonne asking her to mass email them to all PPC members. The email contained photo copies of the suggestions from the St. Lucy box. It was previously agreed by council that Jacque would take care of the St. Lucy suggestion box and Karen will check the St. Edward box. Then the suggestions are to be given to Father John before discussing with council members. Everyone assured Jacque that she is the person who should be handling the St. Lucy suggestion box. Everyone was reminded that Father John is to review the suggestions first.

Father John said he wanted to clear-up a statement made at the last parish council meeting about not accomplishing anything from the Generation Of Faith workbooks this year. Mel J said that was a misunderstanding. Mel said that what she meant to say was that at one of the GOF sessions, due to the Life Works speaker, the teachers were not able to get to the planned teaching session from the workbooks. Mel said that they are actually close to chapter 20.

Review of January minutes: Ann H. made a motion, seconded by Mike Hollowell to accept minutes as read.

DRE Report: Mel Joyce not present. (see attached typed DRE report submitted by Mel)
Father John said he had not heard from Sister Virginia (ministry coordinator) from Notre Dame yet. Sister Rosemary at first said that she was not interested in the part-time DRE position and then later she changed her mind. She would like to think about it. Sister Rosemary is looking to move to a part-time position. Sister Rosemary is hoping to move back to Notre Dame this year. Father John said he has an interview scheduled with Sister on Saturday at noon. Mel is going to also meet with Sister Rosemary on Saturday to explain Generation of Faith and the sacramental programs. Father John said “we will see how it goes”. Sister Rosemary is already familiar with the GOF program. Father John stated that he will continue to advertise in the Youngstown Diocesan Paper until we hire someone.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH: Father John shared that he felt that the March GOF went well. Everyone made their confession thanks to having 3 priests present. We had great feedback on The Living Eucharist Lenten program. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.

VBS: Mel J said that she has received a pledge of \$800 and several smaller donations of \$350 for Vacation Bible School this year. She said in her update letter her goal is for everyone to attend free this year. Mel is asking for volunteers for VBS again this year. VBS is June 13-17 at St.

Edward.

SACRAMENTS: 11 students will be making their confirmation on Thursday April 28 at 7:00pm at St Lucy. Abbot Gary Hoover will be confirming the students this year.

We have 13 students who will make their First Communion on Saturday May 7 at 11:00am at St Edwards.

Father John also stated that Mel told him that Jerry J is interested in teaching the adult session for GOF next year. There was some confusion as to why Jerry would volunteer to teach the adult session of GOF next year when he stepping down as Youth Minister due to his busy work schedule. Jerry said that he was doing a lot of traveling and not able to put the time needed with the youth of the parish, so his willingness to take on teaching the adult session was confusing to the council members.

ADULT GOF SESSION (Friday night): It was stated that primarily it is some of the GOF teachers that attend the Friday evening GOF sessions. There was no March adult session due to the penance service. Mike H said he has enjoyed going on Fridays. A recommendation was made to keep the Friday sessions.

PARISH HAVING FUN EVENT GROUP: During the Samaritan Easter Food delivery the Parish Having Fun Group is planning on having pizza for everyone who is working. The group is thinking of having the pizza during the work session instead of asking volunteers to return after delivering the food. The group feels that more people would enjoy it if they didn't have to come back. Karen T. asked if the group ever went sled riding or played board games at the parish at the February Parish Having Fun event or was it cancelled. No one on parish council could answer that question.

LENTEN PROGRAM, LIVING EUCHARIST: Mel J. stated in her update letter (see attached) that she had great feedback. Everyone really enjoyed the experience. A few people want Mel J. to coordinate a gathering for all who participated in the Living the Eucharist small groups. Scott W. suggested that we should try offering the Living the Eucharist sessions twice a year. Scott W. said he thought that the small group sessions are the way to go. Scott said that groups are clicks, whether we like it or not and the small sessions seemed to work well.

HOLY THURSDAY: POT LUCK AND WASHING OF THE HANDS: Holy Thursday will be at St Lucy this year. The pot luck dinner will be at 6:00pm followed by Mass at 7:30pm. Someone needs to be there at 5:00pm to start coffee, put out plates, cups, silverware, etc and set up some tables. Jacque S., Jan H. and Ann H. volunteered to be there at 5:00pm. Bernadette said she could come after work and be there for cleanup. Karen T said that she would gather the paper products and coffee for the meal.

Father John reminded the council that they need to attend and process in at the beginning of mass. All parish council members are also asked to help with the flow of the parishioners during the washing of the hands. Scott W. asked why do we wash hands instead of feet? Father John explained that the washing of hands has been around for decades. When feet are washed, only 12 people participate, but when you wash hands the whole parish is involved. It is much more inclusive and moving when everyone is involved so we as a parish choose to wash hands.

MISSION STATEMENT: Mike Hollowell said that all of our ministries and groups should make sure we are following the mission statement of our parish in everything we/they do. This statement should encompass everything we do as a church. A suggestion was made to make

small changes, but keep the main mission. Mike Hanish suggested we should add the word mercy to our statement. Karen T suggested that we change the last line to say “in loving and merciful service to all.”

Joan S. stated that on May 21, our Women’s Club is putting on a Program on Mercy. Joan S. feels that we practice mercy now. She said that when the Warren Kitchen group asked for donations of Manwich for one of their meals at the St. Vincent Kitchen in Warren, parishioners donated 200 cans. “*Ask and you shall receive*”.

Deacon Greg stated maybe add The vibrant Catholic community of SS. Edward and Lucy proclaims and lives the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone liked that change.

“The Vibrant Catholic Community of SS Edward and Lucy teaches, proclaims and lives the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do so through the celebration of the Eucharist, the administration of the Sacraments and in loving and merciful service to all.”

Everyone on council really liked the changes. Father John said we can start by putting it in the bulletin and also on our website. Father John suggested that we write an article for the newsletter also. Joan S. said she would write the article for the June edition of the newsletter.

GENERATIONS OF FAITH AGAIN: Mike Hollowell asked if there was anything else on Generations of Faith. Father John said he did not think so at least until we know where we are going with the program next year. We are looking at the program for next year, but we need to use caution so as not to scare off Sister Rosemary or whoever would be taking the position of DRE. Karen T. asked if there was a reason why we do not do not have a GOF class in May? Karen suggested that we could add a May session and use the theme “Mary” since the month of May is the Month of Mary. Karen said we are always taking about needing more time to teach and it is confusing that we end so early in the school year. Why not utilize May? Father John liked the idea. He said we need to take every opportunity we can to teach our students. This is something that we should consider for next year.

YOUTH GROUP: Bernadette finally connected with Jerry J. after several attempts. She said that Jerry told her that he wants to get enough adult volunteers to help out with the different events for the youth group. Saturday, March 19 the Youth Group is scheduled to go to the Cathedral in Cleveland to walk through the Doors of Mercy. Then they are going out to dinner and to the Monsters game. Jerry has a scheduling conflict so he will not be attending, so he has asked for volunteers to go with the group. Jerry put in a bulletin announcement asking for drivers to take the students to Cleveland. Marcia Mikolaj has volunteered to be the leader to take the Youth Group to Cleveland. Mike Hanish suggested we rent a bus or Precious Cargo or something along those lines. The Chaperon could also ride the bus. It was stated that a lot of the time there are only 10 kids that attend these functions. A bus would be too much. Someone said maybe a large van would work.

Mike Hollowell stated that Jerry J wants to work with the adult GOF. This statement again brought questions and confusion to the members because Jerry told the parish council that he does not have time for the students and the question was asked, “how can he have time for the GOF adult session then?”. Mike Hollowell said he cannot speak for Jerry. Mike said that he does not know what exactly Jerry is thinking. Jerry will have to clarify this himself. One of the questions needing clarification is does Jerry J. still want to do the spiritual part of the youth group and the adult GOF session also? Father John said that he is not sure what is going on.

WITNESS SUNDAY-Karen Morrow not present (ask told by Karen T): Karen Morrow spoke with Father John and suggested that maybe parishioners who have gone through the renewal process could give their witness (testimony) in front of everyone at a weekend Mass. Karen M. said it would be different than the renewal witness. Karen M said she would need to think about how that would work at mass. After Karen M. thought it over, she felt it would be too personal to do a witness in front of the whole church at Mass. She decided to back down on doing that because of the intimacy of giving witness. **NEVER MIND!**

NEW BUSINESS:

It was suggested that we send a mass e-mail to everyone who wants to be informed when someone in our Parish dies. Some of the time, if a parishioner dies on a Monday or Tuesday, the calling hours and funeral have passed by the time an announcement is made at the weekend mass. A discussion was held about privacy issues.

Mike H said that sometimes no one knows that people are sick and then they die. Karen said that some people do not want anyone to know when they are sick and that we need to be cautious and have respect for their privacy. We agreed that we need to pray and think about this issue and how to address it. There is no easy solution. Privacy is a big issue here. Some people do not even want on the prayer list. Mike Hanish said maybe we could post it on face book or the website. Maybe just post the actual death notice that is put in the paper on our website.

It was mentioned that Jerry J. is talking about another trip to Cincinnati with the Youth Group this year. It would be a service project like he did two years ago. Father John said we had asked one of the youth attending two years ago to write an article about the experience, but the article was never written.

Next meeting Agenda as follows:

1. DRE-update
2. Vacation Bible School
3. GOF- update and structure (maybe a May session)
4. Baccalaureate Mass
5. Joe DaMattia-Possible Youth Group Volunteer(maybe get some information)

Mike motioned to adjourn and Deacon Greg seconded.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 21, 7:00pm at St. Edward

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary