

SS Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
February 25, 2016

Members present: Fr. John Burkley, Deacon Greg, Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, Mike Hanish, Joan Spangler, Scott Wojtasik, Kathleen Hyden and Jan Helt (Secretary)

Members not present: Nick and Fran Frank, Jacque Soltis, Mike Hollowell, Donna Kolesar, Yvonne Tetzlaff, and Ann Halstead.

Staff present: Karen Thrasher **Not present:** Mel Joyce (submitted short report by email-was in Florida)

Father John opened the meeting with the Gospel reading. Reflection followed.

Kathleen H. asked who is the Joe that was talked about at the January meeting. Father John said he is a coach at Cardinal and Father was hoping to get Joe involved with our youth group. His name is Joe Dimattia. Joe recently joined our parish. Father felt that Joe would be a great fit because students would listen to him and they seem to like him a lot.

Review of January minutes: Mike Hanish made a motion to accept the minutes as read and it was seconded by Scott W.

Kathleen H was concerned that we did not have a quorum to continue the meeting, but it was decided to continue on with the meeting anyhow. We just will not be able to vote on anything. We had only 5 members in attendance.

DRE Report: Mel Joyce not present. Father John said he had not heard from Sister Virginia (ministry coordinator) from Notre Dame yet. She was supposed to call him Tuesday with an answer. Father said if he does not hear from her soon, he will call Sister Virginia. Father said that he would also be advertizing in the Youngstown Diocesan paper.

GOF: Father John said that February was well attended as Mel stated in her e-mail, but it seems like we are biding our time and not really teaching what was necessary. Father did say Mel and some of the parents feel we may need to offer GOF twice a month on Friday and Saturday as we had in the past. There was also a

suggestion that we may need to have 2 classes per month. Father John said it is a little scary when I think about the statement that was made that we really did not get a lot accomplished from the teaching book so far this year. This really makes me a bit concerned. Maybe we just miss understood what Mel said. We defiantly need to be using the workbooks. Since Mel is resigning, we will need to address these concerns (such as having 2 sessions of GOF each month) with the DRE. The new DRE will need to be involved with these decisions. Twenty and thirty year olds have dropped out of church because they did not learn anything. I think assignments were sent home and put them on line last year. The question was asked if we are actually following the workbooks and sending homework home for the family. Questions were directed to Scott because Scott and his family attend. Scott was unsure of the answer. Scott W. suggested that need for a weekly program. Father John said that he left the GOF session to take communion to someone because he did not feel that 45 minutes should be devoted to playing a game when that valuable time should have been used for religion classes. Father John said that the parents and students looked as if they were enjoying the game, but that truth or lie game took way too long. This is valuable religious time and I felt that the game should have only taken 5 minutes. Scott W said he felt having GOF twice a month (6 hours) would make it real. Father John asked the questions, "well, what program do we want or need if we don't do GOF". Father said that we have to make sure our students are learning things like the 10 commandments. Father asked Scott W. if his kids brought the workbooks home. Scott said he thought so. Father John said whether we have GOF or another program, the parents have to be committed for any program to work. Joan S. stated that kids learn differently today. It is not the same. Joan S. said that she not sure her grandkids know the 10 commandments. They do know their prayers, but they go to church all the time. Father said if we do get a nun as DRE, she should be able to make suggestions as to what program we should go with. Karen T. said she does not think it is GOF, because it is a wonderful program, we just need to stay on task. Maybe cut some of the frills and also make it fun for the students. We just need to get back on track. Father John said that years ago Wednesday night used to be the night for religion classes in all the churches and that seemed to work well. Now there is so much going on in people's lives. People even had to work on Sunday's and even CYO sports is scheduled on Sundays. Sunday doesn't seem to be sacred anymore. The fact is we have a program that requires parents to attend. In 2005 we had 140 families in the GOF program and we are down to 57 families in 2015. We need to pray for our religious education program. Hopefully we will hire a new DRE soon.

Parish Having Fun Event: Sled riding was cancelled as there was no snow. Karen T asked if board games were played at St. Lucy that day instead of the sled riding and no one knew if that took place or not. We would have to ask Michelle Bruno as she was the coordinator of that event.

Suggestion Box: Karen T. said nothing was turned in at St. Edwards. Father John said he has not seen Jacque

so he does not know if there was anything turned in from St. Lucy.

Lenten Program –Living the Eucharist: The Living Eucharist began on or around February 10th (Ash Wednesday). Joan S stated it is really going well at her house. Everyone does their homework and really enjoys the time in discussion.

Appreciation Dinner: The Appreciation Dinner will be on the last Sunday in February, the 28 in Rose Hall at St Edwards. Karen T stated that we have 80 people who have RSVP to date. Karen said that she plans on cooking for 100 people. Any left overs can be delivered to shut-ins or used at the St. Vincent Kitchen in Warren. Karen asked for setup help after the 5pm mass as we have a funeral luncheon on Saturday so we have to wait until them to setup. Karen also asked for PPC members to come Sunday by 10am to help in the kitchen.

New Business:

Holy Thursday: Pot luck and washing of the hands: Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper is at St Lucy this year. The potluck dinner will be at 6:00pm with Mass starting at 7:30pm. Karen said tables are usually up but we will need someone host this dinner. The host can put out plates, cups, silverware and prepare coffee and drinks. No member from council volunteered to host the dinner, so Father suggested we ask Richard Geraci. . The PPC members were reminded that they should plan on attending the 7:30pm mass to assist parishioners with the flow of the washing of the hands. It gets a bit confusing at times, so it helps to have a PPC member at each station to direct the parishioner. The Easter Vigil Mass will be held at St Edward this year. On Holy Saturday, the Women's Club have again agreed to host the RCIA reception. Father John said that we do not have any adult baptisms that night. It will still be a long Mass anyhow Father John said.

Mission Statement: We passed out the mission statement to everyone. Members can review it individually and we can discuss it at future meetings to see if anyone feels that it needs changed.

Youth Group: Bernadette stated that Jerry J. did contact her regarding the youth group, but she has not had a chance to get back to him. She will make sure she calls him soon. No other discussion was held.

Catholic Men's Conference: Deacon Greg stated that he would like to have someone speak at all Masses to let the Parish Men know about the Catholic Men's Conference being held on April 9, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Rockside in Independence. Mike Hanish said he would speak at 6:30pm Mass, Deacon Greg will said he will speak at the 8:30am and 10:3am Masses and he would ask Chris Soltis to speak at 5:00pm Mass at St. Edward. Deacon Greg said he would also like to call all the Men from his last year's list to be sure they are aware of the

conference. The cost will be around \$35.00 for members of a group of 8 or more. The theme will be "Being Alive and Well as a Catholic Man". Father Larry Richards from Erie, Pa and Ralph Martin the well-known speaker who is part of Renewal Ministries from Ann Arbor Michigan will be the principle speakers.

Kathleen H asked if there were any updates on security in our buildings. Father stated that from now on they will be locking the inside church doors at St. Lucy during the week. There will be a key made and hung in a secure location for group leaders to access the church during the week. This decision was made because AA members bring their kids and that some of the kids go into church and light the vigil candles. We also have Weight Watchers there on Tuesday mornings without a parish hall monitor. Father John said that a door bell was also installed so that when Adoration is going on no one has to wait in the hall. The Adoration Ministry wants to hold Adoration in the main church, not in the narthex any longer. There is also a sign posted to make sure you push the doors shut so that they lock.

Next meeting Agenda as follows:

1. DRE-update
2. Mission statement
3. Generations of Faith

Joan S. motioned to adjourn and Mike Hanish seconded.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 17, 7:00pm @ St. Lucy

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary