

SS Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

November 17, 2016 @ St. Lucy

MEMBERS PRESENT : Fr. John Burkley, Nick and Fran Frank, Donna Kolesar, Jacque Soltis, Kathleen Hyden, Bernadette Bodgas-Guy, Erin Shirkey, Ann Halstead, Sharon Mathies, Lou Bodnar, Cliff Evans, Marge Petras, and Jan Helt (Secretary).

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT : Joan Spangler and Lynn Davet.

STAFF PRESENT: Karen Thrasher

NOT PRESENT: Sister Rosemary

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

REVIEW OF OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES: Donna Kolesar motioned to accept minutes with corrections, seconded by Nick Frank.

G.O.F. UPDATE: Sister Rosemary was not present so Karen Thrasher passed out a report prepared by Sister Rosemary. GOF theme for November 13 was the Sacrament of Eucharist. Sister passed out a Thanksgiving Worksheet and a Sacramental worksheet for the families to discuss. Everyone seemed to enjoy doing. Everyone received their Family folders with Advent materials. Sister wanted to thank Karen Thrasher, Sharon Mathies, Wendy Kunzler and the Women's Renewal team for all their help with set-up and clean-up for the GOF luncheon each month. Everyone's help is much appreciated. Sister Rosemary said that she attended The (PCL) Parish Catechetical Leader meeting on the sacrament of Matrimony. It was about supporting marriage and families whenever possible. **Sister feels our GOF program is family orientated and really does try to help. and support our parish families**

Advent Reconciliation will be celebrated with parents and children on December 11th at our GOF Program. At the Children's Christmas Eve mass Melissa Joyce will be helping with the music. Sr. Rosemary and a few volunteer teachers will work with the children. Erin Shirkey offered to help Sister Rosemary with the Children's mass and Bernadette offered to help Sister Rosemary with GOF when it starts at St. Lucy in January. Sister Rosemary will need assistance with hall setup and kitchen and luncheon setup and cleanup. Erin Shirkey said that she has three communion dresses to donate if anyone is in need of a dress for 1st Communion.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Father John would like to install the 6 new members; Cliff, Lou, Erin, Lynn, Marge and Sharon at the November 27th 10:30am mass at St. Lucy. New members will receive their pins. Karen will take their pictures for the website and possibly for the bulletin.

MEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION: We need to contact Deacon Greg and/or Mike Hanish to find out if March 17th will be the date. That has not yet been confirmed. Can someone contact them and find out what has been planned if anything thus far?

PARISH HAVING FUN: Sharon M. said that there seemed to be a nice turnout of families at the ornament making session on Sunday, November 6. The ornaments will be given out the individuals when the Parish Having Fun group go to Briar Hill for caroling on Saturday, December 10. The youth group seemed to have fun doing it. Sharon said they were hoping to do 84 ornament, but she was not sure if they all got done.

Karen T. stated that Christmas caroling is at Briar Hill on December 10 at 3:00pm. Michelle Bruno emailed Karen to let her know that the time was changed from the original schedule.

The January scheduled event is a chili cook-off and board game night on January 21 at 7:30 at St Lucy. February they are going to try sled riding at Punderson again. Last year there was no snow. February 18 at 1pm is the scheduled date this year.

Becky O'Reilly is working with Michelle Bruno on these future events.

Youth Group update: Sharon M. said that the Fall Family Fun Day went really well. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. The Youth Group gathered donations for Geauga County animal shelter. Sharon said that Leaf raking did not go so well. Sharon said that we had elderly women that needed her yard raked and because it was so large, we were unable to do it. It was a pretty good sized yard and everything had to be taken back into the woods. We did not have the right equipment or enough bodies to get the job done. Last year they had 20 kids and rented supplies. Sharon said this service project was new to her and she didn't get any guidance on how it was done previously, so it was very difficult to execute the project this year. Sharon called Vinecourt Landscaping (Jim and Jill are parishioners of our parish) and they came out and did it for us for free. It would have cost \$400.00 but Jim and Jill Vinecourt donated their time to do it. Sharon said that they could not get to all the yards that needed done. We just did not have enough help to get the jobs done. We are talking acres of land that needed raked, not small parcels.

Sharon said that putting up the crosses for October Pro-Life month did not go well either. Sharon said she had never done it before and no one from the HELP pro-life group showed-up to guide them. They were supposed to put them up at both churches, but only got them up at St. Lucy. We had no tools or hammers because I did not know we needed them. Some of the crosses needed repairs and we never did get anyone from the HELP group to respond to our request regarding the banner that was supposed to be up also. Father John said that now Lynn Davet is on Parish Council, she should be able to guide the Youth Group regarding any HELP pro-life events as Lynn is very active in that ministry.

There are a lot of students who need service hours for confirmation and school but it seems that it continues to be a constant struggle getting not only the kids, but the parents involved in these projects. Sharon said that she needs help to get these kids motivated. Father said the coach at Cardinal, Joe DiMattia needs to be contacted again and see if he is willing to help out with the youth group. Father said the Help pro-life group should have pitched in and helped guide the students. Father said it is a shame that they didn't because it could have been a teaching moment for our students.

NEW BUSINESS:

PPC BY-LAWS: Father John reviewed the by-laws and handed out a copy for everyone to look over. It also shows our mission statement. Karen said that some of the copies may have the old mission statement on it. Be sure to look at the current mission statement. A brief discussion was held on the by - laws and their meanings. Father skimmed over all the different by - laws and told everyone to go over them further on their own when they get the time.

SAMARITAN THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Father said that the Samaritan ministry is really in need of some extra help with the baskets. Father had put a signup sheet at each church last weekend and was pleased that a lot of people signed up to help. The majority of the members of the Samaritan Society are in their seventies now. It has been much more difficult for them to set up the heavy tables and to lift and move the food. We need to get the younger parishioners including our teens involved in helping them.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES - Preview Meeting: Karen T. said the meetings are scheduled from 12:00pm to 1:30pm this year. There are no evening meetings offered. That is a real shame because it hinders individuals who work. The weekend of February 11 and February 12 is the Catholic Charities Appeal Weekend. Each year, they ask that someone from the parish attend a Kick-off meeting. Packets are normally available to pick up at these meetings, but they also send them out directly to the parishes. Karen said we can discuss more of what needs to be done as we get closer to the appeal weekend. Nick Frank offered to attend the meeting at St. Noel on Tuesday, January 31.

CHECK MEMBER ROSTER INFORMATION : The Parish Pastoral Council member roster was circulated as the meeting was being held. Karen said she will make any necessary changes and bring the corrected roster to the December meeting to be handed out.

APPRECIATION DINNER: A discussion was held as to whether to continue the tradition to host an Appreciation Dinner for the volunteers. Karen said the amount of volunteers attending the dinner the last few

years has been rapidly declining. There was only about 60 people at the last one. Erin Shirkey said that she finds it hard to find the time to volunteer and then also find the time to attend an appreciation dinner. Erin suggested something small like a thank you card and maybe a gift card for coffee and a donut would be a better idea rather than the traditional dinner. Everyone agreed that it is a difficult decision to make regarding having the dinner or not, because some people feel the need to be acknowledged and recognized and yet some volunteers do not. And then there are some volunteers who feel that the church should not be spending money on these things. A suggestion was made by Bernadette to have it on the same Sunday as we do the gathering. Maybe have a breakfast. Some of the PPC members said that they liked Erin's idea of a thank you card and a small gift card. Lou said that he felt it was important to acknowledge our volunteers. Lou said that he enjoys the mug that he received at the last appreciation dinner and he uses it every morning. Lou felt that we should not risk offending the volunteers that like the dinner and need that acknowledgement. The volunteers who don't want to come will be less offended.

Nick suggested that we should assign a sub-committee to work on this. The sub-committee can decide if we do need to do something big or small? Nick made a motion to have an appreciation event even if we are not sure what type of event yet. A show of hands carried the motion. Bernadette volunteered to head the committee. Bernadette, Lou, Cliff and Erin will meet and bring their ideas to the December meeting. Bernadette will contact the others to schedule a meeting.

OCTOBER MASS ATTENDANCE: Father said that St Edwards had 271 last year for mass attendance, but this year was only 231. St Lucy had 207 last year; this year 193. That is a decline at both churches. Karen explained that the number is determined by adding the number of people at each mass for the first two weekends in October. Then you divide that number in half. That gives you the average count for the weekend masses.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER MEETING:

1. GOF update
2. Appreciation Dinner
3. Youth Member/ come to meetings
4. End of year review/what worked and what did not/ what we accomplished for the year.
5. Youth Group
6. Catholic Charities
7. Elections of Officers

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER: Nick Frank motioned to adjourn and Ann Halstead seconded.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 15, 6:00pm(Pot luck) at St. Edward.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary