

## SS Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

February 23, 2017 @ St. Edward

**Members present :** Fr. John Burkley, Donna Kolesar, Jacque Soltis, Bernadette Guy, Erin Shirkey, Sharon Mathies, Lou Bodnar, Marge Petras, Lynn Davet, Cliff Evans, and Jan Helt (Secretary).

**Members not present :** Nick and Fran Frank and Joan Spangler

**Staff present:** Karen Thrasher

**Staff not present:** Sister Rosemary.

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

**REVIEW OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:** Bernadette Guy motioned to accept minutes as read. Jacque S seconded.

**G.O.F. UPDATE:** Received a written update from Sister Rosemary (attached).

**First Communion Enrollment Ceremony was held on January 29 during the 10:30 Mass at St. Lucy in Middlefield.** Father welcomed the children and their families. Kimm Elko read the names and Ann Bierer passed out a chalice pin to each child.

On Sunday February 12, we held the GOF program at St. Lucy Parish in Middlefield ; the Sacrament Theme was **Ordination** and **Vocations** in Life and the pot luck theme was finger food.

We were unable to host the Confirmation Retreat this year so some of our confirmation students are attending the retreat at St Helen on Saturday, March 11. It is a one day retreat. The second option given is a retreat sponsored by St. Helen's Life Teen Program and held at the Wise Campgrounds in Burton. (off Taylor Wells road), from March - April 2 Friday - Sunday. The retreat is for High School students only.

Sister Rosemary attended this month's **Parish Catechetical Leader Meeting** on Wednesday, February 22, at St. Michael Woodside in Broadview Heights. New policies were reviewed for the two sacraments of initiation; Confirmation and Eucharist.

Father John said we did show a DVD on vocations and religious life to the adults at the January Generations of Faith Session. Father stated that many things drop because nobody is willing to commit.

### OLD BUSINESS

**PARISH HAVING FUN:** The Parish Having Fun had to cancel the sled riding event at Punderson due to lack of snow, but they did hike the trails at Punderson that day instead. They went hiking around the boardwalk around the lake. Everyone had fun. Once again, there was only a small number of people in attendance. The next event is in March and the event is going to be "Candy Bingo". It will be held at Rose Hall on March 18.

**LENTEN PROGRAM: LIVING THE EUCHARIST.** Joan Spangler told Father that she called her group who attended last year but no one wants to be in charge this year. Joan was unable to host it this year due to her move to Chardon. Father John said Mel Joyce has the list of names of those who signed up and those who attended last year. Mel will be working on setting up the groups in different homes. Last year, we had eight different homes hosting a session.

**YOUTH GROUP UPDATE:** Sharon Mathies said she is frustrated with the youth and parents in our parish. They do not seem to want to do or belong to anything in our parish. These kids are gifted and talented but they do not seem interested in meeting. Sharon said that every one seemed to enjoy the October festival. The youth originally they thought it was stupid idea, but in the end parents and students had a great time. Father said that he feels our youth are not interested in what is going on in the parish; “look around you can count and name the ones involved in our parish”. Bernadette G. said she is sure that other parishes are having the same problems. Sharon M said they do have youth director meetings in Rocky River etc., but she is unable to attend these sessions. Sharon said that she tried to coordinate leaf raking for our senior parishioners again this year in the fall and no one showed up. It seems that all churches are struggling with how to keep the youth involved. Lou B. felt we are talking about the problem but we are not working on the solution. Lou said we should be discussing the difference between last year and two years ago and what has changed; what is the difference. We need to instill in them the hunger for Christ. Lou suggested that we set aside a half hour or so at our next meeting to brainstorm this issue. We could invite the teachers to attend so they could contribute their thoughts. Lou suggested making an announcement at the March Generations of Faith asking if anyone would like to attend the March brainstorming session. All parish council members were asked to think and pray about this problem and to bring their ideas to the next meeting. Father John stated this is our future and we need to do something. We do not want our students to go spiritually hungry. We want them to better themselves. Lou stated it is not our fault there is so much out there; the internet, face book, some of them work, etc. We all need to work together to find solutions if we are want to make a difference. Jan asked Lou if he would be willing to lead the brainstorming session in March. Lou B agreed to lead the session. Lou also said that after our next meeting he would like to talk to Sister Rosemary about getting some more of the teachers involved too. Bernadette commented that she was impressed with St. Helen and St Francis of Assisi. Bernadette has attended mass there and it seemed the churches were packed with students and adults.

**APPRECIATION DINNER:** The Wine and Cheese Reception is scheduled for March 25 after the 6:30pm Mass at St. Lucy. Karen T. is helping Bernadette plan the event using her artistic talents. Bernadette said she could still use some help setting up and of course with cleanup. Lynn, Jan, Marge (Margie offered Paul’s help) said they would all be glad to help. Bernadette said that she would let them know the time and date that she would need them to be there. Karen said that the invitation to our volunteers for the reception would be in the bulletin this Sunday and next. Father will also announce it. We will be putting up posters everywhere. Father suggested to put it on the new board at St Lucy.

**EAST GEAUGA KIWANIS FISH FRY UPDATE:** Father John said that plans to rent St. Lucy for the fish fry dinners was still up in the air and that nothing has been decided yet. Lou said that after looking back through the minutes, he had some questions. Lou felt the request from the Kiwanis Club to have a lifetime commitment to use St. Lucy Hall was not in our best interest. Lou felt that we better think very seriously about that request. Lou also mentioned that the rental fee of \$100.00 does not seem like a sufficient amount considering all the things that Karen spoke about; wear and tear on the floors, tables and chairs, utility fees, etc. Jan said that Nick said it would be \$100.00 for the first few events and then the Kiwanis Club would evaluate increasing the rental fee to possibly \$250.00. Father John said it would be up to the finance council and St Lucy to decide whether to consider this proposal or not. Father John reminded the

group that Nick and Fran said that the Kiwanis Club was approaching the Cardinal school system to see if they could use their facility. Father John said he felt that Cardinal Schools would be foolish not to take up the offer due to the constant levy failures. Father John said that we might not even have to decide anything. We will need to wait for Nick and Fran to return from Florida to proceed with any further discussions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**GATHERING:** No one was sure why this topic was placed on the agenda. Father said, “coffee and donuts will be served”.

**WOMEN’S CLUB:** Maria Cocco emailed Karen and asked her to put the Women’s Club on the agenda. Karen T said she does not know why she did not come. Karen said that she knew that Maria wanted to come to the parish council meeting to talk about the May 13, Our Lady of Fatima day of reflection. This event will be opened up to everyone including men and children.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP:** Karen T. stated that spring clean-up would be on Saturday, May 20 for both parishes. Karen said that it would nice if we could get more involvement and commitment from parishioners. Father John said that he knew of 3 boys who would be coming to help. Maybe we could split them up. We definitely need more help that Saturday. Please consider coming to help volunteer some of your time.

**STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND:** Should we host this weekend during Lent or should we wait until September to host it? After a brief discussion, parish council decided to wait until fall. We discussed hold it the same weekend as Generations of Faith. Father John felt it was best to choose a different time. The weekend after Generations of Faith was chosen. That would be Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17.

Father said that again this year there is a May session of Generations of Faith. We held one in May last year because we had to cancel two Sunday sessions due to a snowstorm. Normally we do not have one in May but Sister Rosemary and I decided to add a May Session. We will be discussing Marriage for the adult session. Father said that he and a couple other people are working on the marriage program for the adult session.

**VIRTUS TRAINING:** Lou said that he has been reading the Diocese of Cleveland Policy for the Safety of Children In Matters of Sexual Abuse manual. This manual is required reading for all church volunteers and staff who work with children. Lou read the entire manual (200+ pages, cover to cover). Lou said that it says in the manual if I or anyone else are suspect to child abuse or endangering, that our personal computers can be seized. Lou said that he was concerned about that mention in the manual. Lou requested that anyone needing to contact him or his wife, Chris should **NOT** contact him through his home email (computer). Lou said that the manual suggests that it is best if the parish makes available a separate domain for use for its volunteers and staff. Lou said that he felt that it was not safe for volunteers to use their personal e-mail accounts. Karen felt that if you were indeed a suspect of child abuse of endangering it wouldn’t matter what domain you used. The law enforcement offices and or the Diocese of Cleveland would confiscate all of your devices; smartphone, tablet or computer. Karen said that there has been a lot of discussion regarding churches who are utilizing Facebook, Twitter accounts, etc. The church is very concerned with being able to monitor and track what is being posted and tweeted under the umbrella of the parishes. The Diocese of Cleveland is trying to decipher the liability

issues. Unfortunately we are living in a much more complicated world when it comes to communication and media.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH 23 MEETING:**

1. GOF update
2. Appreciation Dinner
3. Holy week
4. Women' Club
5. Holy Week Agenda (Potluck Dinner)
6. Brainstorming session

**ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER:** Bernadette Guy motioned to adjourn and Karen T seconded.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 23, 2017 at St. Lucy.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary