

St. Edward and St. Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes Thursday October 26, 2017

Members present: Fr. John Burkley, Jacque Soltis, Fran Frank, Joan Spangler, Lou Bodnar, and Jan Helt (Secretary)

Members not present: Erin Shirkey, Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, Nick Frank, Donna Kolesar, Cliff Evans, Sharon Mathies & Marge Petras

Other present: Scott Wojtasik and Kathleen Hyden

Staff present: Karen Thrasher **Staff not present:** Sister Rosemary

Father opened meeting with Prayers and reflection.

Review of September minutes: Lou B. motioned to approve minutes seconded by Joan S.

G.O.F. UPDATE: Karen T presented a report from Sister Rosemary. 37 out of 46 families attended this session. Karen said that Sister Rosemary has been on the phone the last two days calling everyone who is not attending. The program theme was the 5th commandment/Respect Life. On October 17th, the Lake/Geauga parishes were invited to St Mary in Chardon for a Mass and reception in honor of our new bishop, Bishop Nelson J. Perez. Everyone who attended the Mass was impressed with Bishop Perez and excited to be there. Sister attended the PLC monthly gathering at St. Michael in Broadview Heights again this month. The topic was Missionary Discipleship and our duty to be evangelizers. Sacramental classes were held on October 22, from 9:00-10:30.

Edge and Life Teen handbooks were available at the meeting for anyone who wanted to look at the programs. The Edge Program is for 6th 7th and 8th graders. Sister is hoping to get samples of the Edge Program for the intermediate grades from St. Helen Parish.

Father stated that he felt that Theresa Zickert is very dedicated to the teens and the Life Teen Program. That is really what it takes to have a successful youth program. Someone who is devoted to their calling in life.

PARISH HAVING FUN “together”: Everyone seemed to enjoy the Wine Tasting event. There were approximately 36 people who attended. Father stated that parking is kind of limited there. Karen said there will be cookie decorating next Sunday, November 5, right after the 10:30am Mass. That should be fun for the kids and adults. Michelle is hopeful that there will be a good turnout for the cookie decorating. Having events directly after mass seems to generate the most attendance. Father stated that he feels that families just don't seem to want to have fun at our parish. It seems that the families are putting other events before a church event. The planning team has tried to gear the majority of these events for younger kids.

YOUTH GROUP DISCUSSION: Erin S sent an email to Lou and Karen saying that she has not been able to reach or really talk to Theresa Z about how we should proceed with our Youth Group. At the last meeting, Erin was to contact Theresa and arrange a meeting with Lou, Erin, Theresa, Father Burkley and Father Jay. No meeting has been set up to date. Hopefully a meeting will be set up for November so that we can move forward with our decision on what is best for the youth of our parish. It seems as if St. Helen is willing to accommodate our youth.

Father John suggested again that Erin and Lou sent up a meeting with Theresa, Father Jay and himself so they can be a part of the conversation too. That way maybe they can really get something done and talk a little reality.

Karen asked Lou how his new program for the youth at Generations of Faith was going. Lou stated he had 4 students the first time but this session, 2 students had homecoming and girl was pretty sick so he was down to only one.

Karen T. said that a couple TVs and DVDs has been donated for the classrooms at St. Lucy. Hopefully the teachers will be able to utilize them while teaching. Father said he had to dumpster dive to get a TV out he had thrown into the dumpster. He realized it was the DVD that was not working, the TV was fine.

Father John said he is excited about the possibility of Theresa starting a youth bible session at Cardinal High School. Having a catholic presence at the school would be a big plus.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND UPDATE: Karen T stated that she had contacted all the ministries and given them the names of volunteers who signed up to help the different groups and ministries. Scott W asked if he could have a list of anyone who signed up to help. Karen T. stated she would give him the names of anyone who signed up for Fund raising. Scott would like to have the names to call on them for the CETAP Chinese Auction. Karen T stated that she feels everyone knows now that there is a need to help the CETAP families and that she feels they will get help when they need it from the Parish.

GENERAL TOPIC: Lou said that he did some research regarding the consumer price index from 1990-2017, comparing medical costs, college tuition, Catholic School tuition, costs of appliances, etc. Lou stated that he feels tuition has gone up about 52 times more in the Catholic schools since he was a kid and that tuition costs were much higher compared to other items such as purchasing an air conditioner. Lou said to send 3 kids to school now is way more expensive than what is used to be. Lou said that the fact remains that the financial burden for families to send their children to Catholic schools is way more difficult now. Lou said that he dug through our past bulletins to find the end of year fiscal report. Lou asked Karen if it was correct that we have \$800,000 in our checking accounts for St. Lucy and St. Edward. Lou didn't feel that the money was in the appropriate accounts and questioned why so much would be in a checking account. Karen stated that a good part of the money is invested and not just in checking accounts. Karen asked why we were discussing finances at parish council. Karen said that Lou should have been at last week's finance council meeting if he had questions regarding church money. Lou said that he felt that there is no reason that we can't pay for families' tuition when we have that much money in the bank. Father John told Lou that we run a very tight budget. Neither churches have a custodian or anyone who does repairs. We rely on volunteers to do a good part of upkeep and repairs. Karen said that Father John does a lot of work himself at our churches. Karen stated that Father John is getting older and nearing retirement. Karen said that we need to be thinking about what happens when the next priest is assigned to our parish and he may not be as handy as Father John is. At that point, we would have to hire a custodian. Karen also asked Lou if he really looked at the total financial report and understood it. When you remove the Rooted in Faith contributions which ends this year and don't have fund raising and the stock market doesn't do well, parish finances aren't that great. St. Lucy has been in the **RED** 5 of the last 6 years. St. Edward has also not had much excess money after expenses to maintain a facility this size. Father John asked Lou what his point was? Lou said that Scott brought this up. Scott responded "whoa!" Lou said that he felt that Catholic education is important and we should be doing all that we could to be sure we help our families' obtain that education. Father John stated that every kid in our parish is important, not just the ones going to Catholic Schools. Father said that most parents cannot afford to send their kids to St. Helens or any Catholic school and we as a Parish can't pay for some kids educations and not for all.

Karen reminded everyone that CETAP was established to help families to stay active in our parish and not feel the need to leave and join St. Helen so as not to pay non-parishioner rate for tuition. CETAP families receive help in the way of money making up the difference of parishioner vs. non-parishioner tuition rates at other Catholic schools. We are presently paying \$800 per year for each child enrolled in CETAP. Karen said she called St. Helen's business manager to find out exactly how the tuition charges are applied for our CETAP families. Karen said that she was not aware that tuition is waved for the 4th child in the family. Karen said that we have been paying the tuition difference for the 4th child. Also, the policy is, if you are a teacher (part-time or full-time), you get one child's tuition FREE. We were also paying the tuition difference for a family that was

getting this benefit. Karen T. stated that the parish was not made aware of either of these benefits. The parish was paying the tuition difference for a few families who were not being charged.

Lou B. said that the bottom line is there is nearly a million dollars sitting in a checking account, drawing no interest and he wants to know why we can't use some of that money to pay for these students tuition. Father John said that that was NOT going to happen. Father said that he will be dead in a couple of years and someone else will have to keep this parish running! There will be some major expenses in the future. Karen T. said that the money that has been invested is there to take care of major repairs and upgrades needed in the facilities. We have a parking lot that needs to be paved at the tune of at least \$200,000. The interior of both churches have not been painted in over 14 years. Lou said , "but we also have income coming in". Karen T stated yes we do, but she reminded Lou that St. Lucy has been running in the RED without fundraisers and Rooted in Faith for the last 6 years, all but one year. Father John stated that Rooted in Faith donations was a 5 year program and we are done receiving this additional money, so that cushion will not be there. Karen T. asked Lou what happens when people who do the fundraising can't do it any longer. The volunteers are aging and the young people are not stepping up to take over. Lou said that tells him the parish is not evangelizing enough. Father John said that the parish includes Lou! Maybe you need to evangelize more also. Pope Frances says we all need to evangelize and if we are doing nothing, we are as Pope Frances says "**we are inward looking**".

Father said that these buildings, these two beautiful churches would not be here if it was not for our parishioners, our church community. We are getting new parishioners one at a time, which is great for our area. The Chicken Dinner, the Octoberfest and the Chinese Auction are events that bring everyone together (parishioners and community) and they also make money for our parish at the same. Father John says we do the best we can with what we have to work with. Karen said that Bishop Perez gave us a challenge at his welcome mass at St. Mary in Chardon. He asked each one there to bring one person back to their Catholic faith. Bring them into our church and walk with them on their journey. He talked about the Nones that the all churches are dealing with. This is a generation of Nones. These are people who can be religious, but not feel the need to attend or support a local church.

Father John stated that our parish has the largest food distribution for the holidays in this area and that our St. Vincent Dining Hall volunteers in Warren make the best meals for the needy people in Warren. These are all evangelizing events that happen within and outside our Parish and there are many more that happen every day. The Holy Spirit is at work all the time in our Parish. Sometimes people are just not aware of all that is being done. This is all evangelization. Maybe our pews do not seem full, but we still our doing are part to spread the gospel message outside our doors by our acts of justice and mercy. Father said that we just need to challenge ourselves and others a little more.

PARISH LIFE SURVEY: Has been tabled at this time.

PARISH COUNSEL NOMINATIONS: There were 36 nominated and 10 no so far. There is still hope for more. November elections are the 4th and the 5th.

OCTOBER ANNUAL MASS COUNT: Mass counts are up slightly this year.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Generations of Faith Update

Youth Group

Parish Life survey

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Our next meeting will be Thursday November 30, 7pm at St Lucy

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary