

SS Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

Thursday, August 31, 2017

Members present: Fr. John Burkley, Nick and Fran Frank, Donna Kolesar, Jacque Soltis, Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, Erin Shirkey, Lou Bodnar, Joan Spangler, Marge Petras, Cliff Evans, and Jan Helt (Secretary)

Members not present: Sharon Mathies and Lynn Davet

Others present : Mike Hollowell, Steve Hollowell, and Scott Wojtasik.

Staff present: Karen Thrasher Sister Rosemary not present

Father John opened the meeting with Prayers and reflection.

Review of April Minutes : Nick F. motioned to accept minutes with corrections Donna K. seconded.

G.O.F. UPDATE DRE REPORT: Sister Rosemary did not put a report together for this meeting because the GOF had not started. The first teacher meeting was held on Sunday. Erin S stated that she orders craft supplies for her class from Oriental Trading. Erin suggested it would be nice to have a \$30.00 budget allowance for each class to order crafts if we have funds available. Erin felt that not every teacher had the available funds to purchase their supplies so establishing a budget amount for each class might be helpful. Erin S said she will talk to Sister Rosemary about it. Father said they are trying to have a little break in class. Father said anything that helps in the learning process is great approach and that it was a good idea. The budget is something to look into. Father John also stated that all teachers will be receiving the Catholic Catechist magazine. He is going to have the magazine sent directly to the teacher's home. His hope is that the teachers will have to read it and to utilize the suggestions in the magazine in the classrooms.

PARISH HAVING FUN: There was an ice cream social scheduled in August at the splash park in Middlefield and about 10 people attended. September 24 is the next event to be held. It is a Pumpkin Decorating theme. It will be held at St. Lucy Winca Hall right after the 10:30am mass. Friday October 20th will be wine tasting at Laleure Vineyard on Route 88. Everyone is welcome to attend. The first glass of wine is free. Erin S offered to bring cheese cubes for the event. Erin and Nick will get together and figure out how much to bring. Karen said that Erin and Nick need to include Michelle Bruno as she been the coordinator for the events. December 9th will be caroling at a nursing home. Which nursing home has yet to be determined.

CHICKEN DINNER & CAR SHOW: Karen gave the report on the dinner. There is also a report in this weekend's bulletin. The chicken dinner raised \$5000 more than last year. We raised just over \$26,000 total profit. 99 show cars attended, some came as far away as New York. We sold 626 dinners, which was about 40 more than last year. The Chinese auction also broke a record, raising over \$4600 (\$1300 more than last year). The weather was great and everyone seemed to have had a great time. Karen T said that she attributes this exceptional year to Father John. She said she knew that since he could not be with us due to his health, he prayed a lot to make it happen. Karen also said that next year we will not have Indians tickets for our raffle because Yvonne Tetzlaf's company sold. Erin S said she could ask Great Lakes Cheese to donate some tickets next year. Karen said she would make a reminder to ask Erin. Karen also said that we got a lot of complements on all aspects of our chicken dinner. The raffle ticket sales were down about \$200 this year. Raffle tickets sale are based on what type of items are in the raffle and outside sale of tickets. The fact that you do not have to be present for either the raffle or the Chinese auction to win is a plus. It is a lot more work that way, but worth the effort when you see the profit. Karen also said that the basket arrangements are the Chinese auction were also another reason for the large increase in profit. The arrangements were spectacular. Lynn Davet spent a great deal of time arranging the baskets. Lynn has moved out of our parish and we will not have her help next year. That will be a tremendous loss. The chicken dinner is a combined effort of many, many people. The profit goes into the general fund of both churches. Having this fundraiser has greatly benefited the income of the parish.

NEW BUSINESS

CETAP- Steve Hollowell stated that he thought that there was going to be a CETAP discussion on the agenda. Father John said it was supposed to be, but Dan Cook, who was supposed to bring the CETAP families concerns to council backed out. Father said that we could proceed with the discussion now if Steve wanted to. It was decided to do our Youth Group topic first.

YOUTH GROUP - Father John said that Lou and Marcia Mikolaj went to a work shop last Saturday regarding Youth Ministry in Parishes. Lou suggested that Erin present her findings regarding Youth Ministry before Lou speaks about the seminar.

Erin S said she met with a few people (Mel and Jerry Joyce and Steve, Shannon and Mike Hollowell) to discuss our Youth Group program; past and present and future. One of the suggestions was for her to reach out to some of the students that had been in the program and get their feedback. Erin said she talked to Cole Zemelka and Megan Kolesar about what they liked and did not like about the program. Erin said her observations was it was all about who was the leader of the program. Erin said that she felt that Jerry did a great job leading the youth. He was the right age and that helped him to be able to communicate with all students. Erin said that he seemed to reach out to the students and made them feel comfortable. The students felt that he wasn't judging them. He engaged them and reached out to help them if they needed special attention or had something extra going on. He made sure others in the group were aware and reached out also. Erin also spoke to Lyndsey Cummins since she has had 3 children go through the youth group. Lyndsey said that her oldest had a great time. He was best friends with Cole who was also in the group. They had a great time all the way through 12th grade. Lyndsey said that her middle child didn't have a friend in the program, but it was fun and he looked forward to going and went until 10th grade. Her youngest went with a friend and enjoyed it also, but after Jerry left, she lost interest in going. Erin said that she felt that it was important that we get the right person to lead the youth. It needs to be a person who is sincerely engaged in the youth of our parish. The kids themselves have to want to go. Most of the students said that they felt comfortable if 6 to 10 students attended. Meeting once or twice a month was enough for them. Erin said it was also suggested that maybe they could help teach the younger children at GOF. Then maybe once or twice a year get together and go to an Indians game or some type of fun outing. It would be helpful to know how many students are registered in our parish and then we can reach out to them to try to get them involved in the youth ministry. We need to know ahead of time what the parish expectations are. Erin said that we need a leader, but we also need help from the parents or someone else who can help with the paperwork and phone calls. It would be best to have two separate groups; a 6 grade thru 8 grade and 9 thru 12 grade. The older group does discuss things that may not be appropriate for the younger group. Erin said that she could not stress enough the importance of having the right leader in youth ministry. We need to look for a youth leader who fits the needs of what we want our parish youth ministry to be. We have to have a youth ministry leader job description set up first. We could also look at combining our youth with another parish. Erin recommended that if we decide to hire a youth minister, it should be a paid position with approximately 15 hours a week. Lou B and Marcia M attended a youth ministry work shop at Gilmore Academy. Lou also attended a 1 hour web youth ministry access. Lou said that he and others felt that if your parish does not have a vibrant youth group, eventually you will not have a parish. Lou said that he was surprised that at the work shop there were some youth leaders who were older; they were in their 60s or 70s. But most of the leaders were between 25 and 35 years old. The younger leaders physical appearance and enthusiasm makes a big difference. He also said that he felt that re-building our youth program will take 1 to 3 years to develop. Life Teen has the materials for anything you want to do or teach. This program already has everything that you need, but you need the right person for a leader. Lou agreed with Erin that it is important to find the right person to lead our youth.

Lou B. stated that he has volunteered to teach at GOF. His class would be for students who has made their confirmation (10th grade-21 year olds). It is a course that Lou put together himself (Living the God Life). Lou met with Father John and explained his ideas for these classes. Lou said he does not know how many students will show up for the class, but a couple is better than none.

Mike H suggested that we reach out to Theresa Zickett who leads the Life Teen program at St. Helens to see if the Life Teen program is the direction we want to go with our youth. Mike H said that he just retired so he has the time to meet with Theresa to get more information on the program. Karen suggested that Father John, Lou and Marcia also meet with Theresa since they are the ones who will be working with establishing the parish youth program. Father John said we should not be duplicating ministries if we are truly a cluster parish with St. Helen. Father John said that maybe we should have our students join their program. Lou said that Marcia had a conversation with the St Helen staff regarding their Life Teen program when they attended the seminar. Maybe Marcia could let us in on the knowledge that she gained regarding what Life Teen entails.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND will be September 16 & 17. Stewardship cards will be made available again this year. The cards list all the various ministries within the parish. Father John asked if someone from council would be willing to talk about stewardship at the masses. He felt that it would be good to have someone else besides himself talk about the importance of stewardship. No one volunteered. Karen said that it is only 2 weeks away and we need to make a decision tonight. Karen suggested that we could ask 4 different ministry leaders to speak about their particular ministry. They could give a testimony regarding why they think their ministry is important. Karen said that we hear all people say that they sign up and no one ever calls them. Karen said that she feels the most of the groups do call when someone signs up.

She said that sometime people just change their minds and don't follow through with joining that ministry. Karen suggested that maybe Maria Cocco could speak at the 8:30am regarding the Women's Club. Marge P volunteered to speak at the 5pm mass regarding the Women's Renewal. Lou also volunteered to speak at the St. Lucy masses regarding the Stephen Ministry. Karen will prepare the stewardship cards for the weekend.

PARISH MISSION- Mike H. said Greg Wasinski is the speaker for our parish mission titled, "Unconditionally" to be held February 18 - 20 at St. Lucy. Our hope is to make the program available to everyone. We will have finger foods available before and all the food will be donated. The mission will be held 3 nights in a row; Sunday, Monday & Tuesday. It will be run about an hour to an hour and a half each night. Kids are welcome. If a child is able to sit through mass, then they should be able to handle the time it takes for this program. The posters and advertising will start at the end of September. After attending the mission, the planning team hopes to continue with some type of program for the 5 weeks during lent. Hopefully it will be set up something like the Living Eucharist program was. Mike said that two of our CETAP families are involved in the planning of the parish mission; Steve and Shannon Hollowell and Jody and Dan Cook.

CETAP (Catholic Education Tuition Assistance Program) - Steve H said that the CETAP families had a meeting with Father John to discuss the contract and the requirements asked of the families who benefit from the financial aid. The families in the program are having a difficult time adhering to all the requirements asked of them. Steve H stated that he feels that the CETAP program contract needs to be reviewed and adjusted. Some of the things in the agreement is too much to ask of the families. Steve said that the parish needs to review the guidelines and requirements how the parish compensates the families for their Catholic Education. He said he has done a lot of thinking about it and he feels that with only three families involved, they do not have a lot of resources available to continue to be in charge and run the Chinese auction for CETAP. Steve said that he really didn't do too much for the Chinese auction last year, but he did take a day or so off of work to collection donations on Saturdays. Steve said that the families spoke with Father John and Father said that parish members may ask "why should their money go towards sending your kids to school?" Steve said he felt that they were not being very good Christians if they felt that way. Steve asked Karen what the balance of the CETAP was. Karen said that she was not going to give the balance off the top of her head. Karen said she would prefer to give the correct amount and that she would check on it for the next meeting.

Steve said that he feels there are other parishioners in the parish who would like to send their kids to Catholic school and that the parish should be willing to help them do that. Mike H stated that the requirements of the CETAP contract is putting more of a burden on CETAP families. Having to do the Chinese Auction is too much to ask of them. Karen stated that it really is less of a burden now because when the original contract was drawn up, the families used to do the Polkafest also. They were originally doing two fundraisers a year. Mike H stated that he felt they should not have to do any fundraisers. Mike said that he felt that the only requirements to receive this parish financial aid should be that the families should be required to attend mass and Generations of Faith. Mike H asked "do we have to always have to put dollars and cents on everything". Father John said we have to consider the dollars and cents because it does cost money and that will always be a reality in life. You want to expand the program, yet you want to get rid of the Chinese auction and have the Parish absorb the tuition for everyone.

Steve said that he did not want to get rid of it entirely, but he wants other people to be in charge. Steve said that the CETAP families could work the fundraiser and still use the profit for the financial aid. Father reminded everyone that there was actually a lot of other parishioners including people from St. Joseph's in Mantua who helped last year with the auction. Scott Wojtasik asked for help from people outside the parish and they came and worked the auction. Jan reminded Steve that she and Karen were there counting and collecting money all evening during the entire auction. Jan said that she felt we were not appreciated and in fact Karen was verbally screamed at right before the auction started in front of numerous people. Scott W said that maybe we need to put control of the CETAP account under the DRE and she can decide if there is a need for a scholarship with any of the other families. CETAP was designed to make up the difference between parishioner and non-parishioner tuition. This year each child is receiving \$800.00 and there are 8 students in the program. That is a yearly total of \$6400.00. Steve and Mike asked "how much do we value a catholic education?" Father asked the council what they suggest and where do we go from here. Karen reminded everyone that Parish Council can make suggestions, but ultimately the Parish Finance Council makes the final financial decision. Steve H said that council needs to review the guidelines, maybe choose a different fundraiser, or something else that could go towards the CETAP fund. Steve said that we should use the extra money that has built up towards scholarships to students and to encourage other families to send their children to catholic school. Mike H stated that there has to be a slush fund from over the many years we have been doing this. We should use up that money. Steve and Mike both agree that they feel that all the funds should be distributed every year to families one way or other. So we would be giving families more than just the difference between parishioner and non-parishioner tuition rates.

Nick said that he hopes that you are not suggesting we give up an established fundraiser. It took years to establish it to be as profitable as it is. Nick said that it sounds like you need more people involved to continue the fundraiser. Nick said that he is willing to help the families and he knows that there will be other parishioners willing to help if they are asked.

Council will review the contract at the next meeting. We will look at and see what we can do about the program requirements. Father stated it is not a sin to go to St. Helens, but we are talking about our future and what we need to do as a parish.

Marge P. shared her story of how she and Paul worked hard all their lives to be able to send their kids to catholic school and colleges. Marge said that they did everything they could to help the priest and the parish by volunteering in various ministries during the kids school years even while both of them were working full time. Marge said that she and Paul were proud that they paid for the kids Catholic education themselves. Marge said that they felt that they were our children and it was her and Paul's responsibility to figure out how to do it. Marge said that "we did not expect others to do it for us". Marge told Steve that she felt that he should feel lucky that there was a CETAP program and that he should appreciate it instead of complaining about it. Steve H told Marge that he felt that this was the problem with our parish and that it was attitudes like hers that is driving people like him away from our parish.

Jan's NOTE: Let us remember everyone that people have a right to their opinion and just because they do not agree with you is no reason to attack them. Everyone's opinion matters and we encourage everyone to voice it.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

CETAP

Youth Group

GOF

Parish Council Nominations

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday September 28 7:00pm at St Lucy

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary