

St. Edwards and St. Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
Thursday September 28, 2017 at St. Lucy

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

Members not present: Joan Spangler, Nick & Fran Frank (Lynn Davet who has moved to Indiana)

Staff present: Karen Thrasher and Sister Rosemary

Guests present: Mike Hollowell, Theresa Zickert, Scott Wojtasik, and Dan Cook.

Father opened meeting with Prayers and reflection.

REVIEW OF APRIL MINUTES: Sharon M motioned to approve minutes seconded by Father John.

G.O.F. UPDATE: Father John stated that our Confirmation program is a 2 year program in our parish. It upsets him when they go to school at St. Helens and then want to make their Confirmation in the 8th grade. Father John feels that the 2 year program benefits the students in the long run. We have them a year longer because after they make their Confirmation, some of them don't come back. Having Confirmation in the 9th grade means that the students are active 1 year more in the parish. Lou B. said that he was looking for other teens to come to the Generations of Faith class that he is teaching this year. Lou only had a few attend the first session.

Sister Rosemary gave a written update on the September session of Generations of Faith. Sister attended the Diocesan Gathering Forum for Catholic Education and Formation. It was held on August 10 at the Wolstein Center of CSU. This was an unusual gathering of staff as it was inclusive of many other teaching ministries in the parish. Sister also interviewed perspective teachers for G.O.F. Sister interviewed Dale Zajko, Donna Warner, and Stacy Blasko.

G.O.F. started on September 10 with a 10:30 Welcome Mass. All teachers had a role in the Mass. 31 families and 57 children were present. Chris Bodnar and Dawn Ball took care of the luncheon set-up and clean-up. This year's theme is **MORALITY. (See attached report for further information)**

YOUTH GROUP DISCUSSION: Mike H introduced Theresa Zickert. Theresa is the Youth Minister from St. Helen Church. She has been there since 1996. Theresa Z stated that it was nice to see Father Burkley so concerned and involved in the youth of our Parish. Theresa was invited to our meeting to give us information on the Life Teen Program. Theresa said that kids in high school are trying to figure out their faith and that statistics say that only 3% will return to their faith. Theresa Z said that Life Teen helps the youth by living by this quote; "if man fails, God will prevail." Below is a handout that Theresa gave out explaining what the Life Teen program is about.

What is LIFE TEEN?...

LIFE TEEN is a comprehensive youth ministry movement of the Holy Spirit based on, focused on, and directed towards the Eucharist. Our LIFE TEEN mission is to create an environment that attracts teens and leads them into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and His Church. It reaches teens on all levels: emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and relational – dispelling the notion that all it takes is a social club with lots of activities to keep teens on track.

LIFE TEEN International is a Private Association of the Christian Faithful (a.k.a. Lay Association) and has received phenomenal affirmation from the Vatican. Very simply, this means that we have a defined spirituality officially approved to be congruent with the spirituality of the Roman Catholic Church. LIFE TEEN has grown to be one of the largest Catholic youth ministry programs in the world and is a part of over 1200 parishes in the United States, including our own St. Helen parish.

What attracts the teens to LIFE TEEN? Two things...the TRUTH and EXPERIENCE! They are given the truth and opportunities to grow in their faith through creative LIFE Nights, Bible Studies, retreats, weekly prayer activities, discussions, and teen leadership conferences. Providing powerful and vibrant Eucharistic celebrations for teens and their families that are inviting, joyful, and prayerful, with music that speaks to their souls, and homilies that are relevant and challenging to teens... providing engaging LIFE Nights, transforming retreats, social justice and service projects, Eucharistic Adoration, and safe-fun activities for the teens is how our program helps them experience the power and love of Christ in the Eucharist, the Word of God, the people they serve, and each other.

And, the teens have a real sense of belonging at LIFE TEEN. They are accepted and loved unconditionally and mentored by some pretty incredible, caring, and holy adult role models – the Core team. Our ultimate goal is to love on, speak the truth to, and then empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. Sometimes this may seem like a daunting task with all that they are faced with in our culture of death which disregards the sanctity of human life, promotes moral relativism, and glorifies the needs and wants of the individual above everything else. But to reclaim American teens from the grips of the “Culture of Death,” we must not be overwhelmed by the obstacles, but with God’s help, truly seek to be an agent of change, and continually offer them something better!

You are invited to experience how the Holy Spirit is so alive in LIFE TEEN and to journey to Christ with us. This life is all about Jesus and we shouldn’t miss an opportunity to get to know Him better, love Him more deeply, and serve Him more faithfully. That’s what LIFE TEEN is all about! And, if you feel God may be placing on your heart that He wants you to help love and lead teens on this journey to Christ, please contact Theresa Zickert tzickert@sthelen.com or Tammy Sadowski tsadowski@sthelen.com (440) 564-5805. Information about upcoming events can be found on www.sthelen.com and on Facebook: St. Helen’s Life Teen.

Theresa stated that our 9 thru 12 graders are welcome to join the St Helens Youth Group. Of course that is definitely an option for our parish rather than having our own Youth Ministry program. Theresa said that if we decided to do that, Father John and Father Jay would need to meet to discuss the financial contribution that SS. Edward and Lucy would be responsible for. Theresa said LIFE TEEN is every Sunday night, 5:30pm to 8:30pm. The program starts out with Mass at 5:30pm and all students participate in the Mass. After mass they gather to eat a meal, gather for a skit or to play a game, proclaim (teaching), break into small group for sharing and/or journaling and then they end the evening with prayer. It is a welcoming and safe environment for all students.

Theresa said that there are 2 retreats each year; one in the fall and one in the spring. The cost is approximately \$110.00 per student which includes a t-shirt and some supplies.

The subscription for LIFE TEEN is \$1,000 should we decide to start the program in our parish. Life Teen is a great program which gives the students an amazing start towards becoming adults leading our Parish. Theresa stated that they also have a program for younger students call EDGE for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Sharon M. said that she was concerned about our younger students also and that we should be discussing their needs too. Sister Rosemary said she would look into the Edge Program. Sharon M said that we already have the information and books regarding the Edge Program. Sister Rosemary will get these books from Dawn Ball who got them from Sharon to look over.

Everyone thanked Theresa for her wonderful explanation of the Life Teen Program. A subcommittee was formed to meet with Theresa again and further discuss all the options. Lou B and Erin S agreed to arrange the meeting. It was suggested that Marcia Mikolaj and Dawn Ball be invited. Theresa cell phone number is 440-781-7269 and her assistant Tammy Sadowski is 330-842-1745.

PARISH HAVING FUN: Father John said the pumpkin decorating was kind of disappointing. Some people came and took a pumpkin and proceeded to take it home and decorate it. The whole point is our Parish having fun is to have fun **together**. The ones who stayed seemed to enjoy it. Michele told Father John that she gets more of a turn-out when she has Parish Having Fun events right after Mass. Cookie Decorating will be on November 5 after the 10:30am mass. October 20 will be the wine tasting event at the vineyards on route 88.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS: This year nominations will be on November 14 and November 15. We have 3 people whose term is up; Nick and Fran Frank, and Joan Spangler. We also need to replace Lynn Davet who has moved out of the parish. That makes 4 who need to be replaced.

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND: Father John suggested we pass out the booklets and put up posters explaining the different groups. Father John said he would announce it in church. Hopefully people will sign up. It is only a one year commitment. Donna K and Lou B will work on the results and make sure there is adequate follow through.

PARISH LIFE SURVEY: This discussion was tabled for this meeting due to the lengthy presentation on Life Teen.

Lou B asked about installing wireless internet at St. Lucy. Lou B. feels we should have access to the internet when teaching the youth. Karen T explained that you can actually access programs and other things through your smart phone. Mel occasionally utilized her cell phone when she wanted to show something that was on the internet. Erin thought that it may cost \$10.00 to enter a hot spot when you need it at St. Lucy. If a teacher could do that, it might be more cost effective than having wireless internet installed and paying a monthly fee.

Sister Rosemary would like a TV with a VHS/DVD player available in each room at St. Lucy for use at Generations of Faith. Father suggested that Sister Rosemary see what we have already and then we can go from there. Jan offered to help Sister Rosemary.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT: Karen T said they would be doing Mass count on September 30 and October 1 and October 7 & October 8 at all Masses and both churches.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Generations of Faith Report

Edge Program

Youth Group

Parish Council Nominations

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Our next meeting will be Thursday October 26 7: 00 pm at St Edward

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary