

**St. Edward and St. Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**Thursday February 22, 2018**  
**at St. Edward Meeting Room**

**Members present:** Fr. John Burkley, Sharon Seliskar, Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, Donna Kolesar, Lou Bodnar, Bill Scicolone, Erin Shirkey, Marge Petras, Norm Nowakowski, Cliff Evans, and Jan Helt. (Secretary)

**Members not present:** Jacque Soltis, Sharon Mathies and Dennis Szymanski.  
Staff present: Karen Thrasher. Sister Rosemary submitted GOF report.

Others present: Scott Wojtasik

Father opened meeting with Prayers and reflection.

**Review of February 1 minutes:** Bernadette G. motioned to approve minutes and Donna K. seconded the motion.

Sharon S. said that she will not be sending an email each month to remind all parish council members about the meeting, but she thought it would be a good idea if she was notified if a member was not able to attend the meeting.

**G.O.F. UPDATE:** Sister sent in an update for GOF again. Everyone went over the update. A question was asked about continuing having the children take part in the reading and gifts at the 10:30am mass. Erin said that she thought it was very important that the kids take part in those masses. Lou thought that we could do a better job with teaching the kids church reverence. It was suggested that the kids could be part of the entrance procession and carry the Lectionary. Erin said that the kids are eager to help at mass. Father stated that the children need to know what they are reading. Father said that more preparation is needed so the children have an understanding of what they are reading. Everyone agreed we should still have the students read but maybe practice a little more.

**PARISH LIFE SURVEY:** Bernadette G stated that the sub-committee has had several meetings and we have made some progress. One of the samples out there is Cara survey, but there is a cost to it. The feeling with the committee is to go with it as it is and just make copies. The copyright fee is \$200 which has already been paid by Bernadette. The problem is not in the questionnaire, but in the fact that it would takes hours of time compiling all the data. Bernadette stated that she felt that it would be valuable to our parish to do the survey. The question was asked as to why we do the survey and what do we plan on doing with the information. Father John said that it is in the parish pastoral council by-laws that a survey should be done every few years to check the pulse of the parish. The CARA fee to compile all the data is \$2500. Sharon S. said that she used to do computer programing, but that was seven years ago. Sharon suggested that we should ask if someone from the parish knows computer programming. Perhaps we could find someone who would do it for as little as \$250. Parish

council members agreed to reach out to friends and family and see if we can find someone to do the sorting and compiling of the data. Bernadette said that there would be 100 questions on the survey and it should only take about 12 minutes to complete. We really don't want to allow parishioners to take the survey home to complete. CARA recommended that the survey be completed during the mass. It may be more honest that way when there is no time to think about it. It was asked if there were any local churches that used the CARA survey. Bernadette said that she would contact the CARA Company and ask that questions. The sub-committee (Bernadette, Lou, Dennis and Father John) will continue to meet and figure out the best way to approach the survey.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**ELECTIONS:** Sharon Seliskar volunteered to be chairperson for the year. Karen T. explained to Sharon S what is involved in being chairperson. Bernadette Bogdas-Guy volunteered to be back-up chairperson. Jacque S said that she had started sending out an e-mail a week before the meeting to remind everyone. Sharon said that she would not be doing that. (see above). We want to thank Sharon and Bernadette for volunteering. A big thank you to Jacque Soltis for serving last year as our chairperson. Kudos to you for a job well done.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** Karen T. stated that St. Lucy had 77 pledge envelopes and St Edwards had 75 pledge envelopes collected the appeal weekend. Karen said that we have been blessed with generous contributors. Both parishes have reached their individual goals for many years. There will be a follow up weekend in May just to remind anyone who has not contributed. The May reminder gives the snow-birds a chance to pledge.

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION UPDATE:** Karen T. presented a sample poster showing the different caring ministries. Karen suggested that the poster could be on display at the altar. During the month, we can focus on thanking those groups who are a part of those ministries. We can thank them at mass and in the bulletin. Father John suggested we contact the Middlefield Post and publish the poster each month. Karen suggested that we start out with a picture of Parish Council in the Middlefield Post and write an article explaining Parish Council and what it does. Everyone agreed that it was a great idea to put something in the Middlefield Post. Karen will check with the Middlefield Post. Karen said by grouping these ministries into Celebrating, Caring, Participating, Evangelizing, Teaching and Facilities, we will be celebrating our volunteers for six months. Lou B. said that we do a lot that people don't know about. Lou really thinks that we should have volunteers stand up and be recognized at Mass. Lou feels it may encourage others to get on board and volunteer.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL PICTURES:** Sharon asked what happened to the pictures that Karen took of the parish pastoral council members? Karen said she put together a framed picture of council members and hung it in both churches and it is also on our website. Father said that the framed picture at St Lucy is broken. It fell off the wall. It needs to have a new frame. (FYI: Framed picture hangs in the main entrance at St. Edward and on the right wall entering the sanctuary at St. Lucy)

**Youth Group Discussion:** Father said that Jim O'Reilly brought up the Youth Group and GOF concerns at the last GOF. There was a lengthy discussion regarding what is happening or not happening. Some parents want to continue the GOF format and others don't like it. Lou said that he feels that the Generations of Faith program is "flat" and there is nothing to attract anyone to attend. The teachers need to learn to engage the kids.

The meeting at St. Helen regarding the Life Teen was also discussed. Father John said that Father Jay made it clear that he does not recommend sending our youth to St. Helen because it would not be in the best interest of any parish to not have their own youth program. The whole idea of a youth program is to promote involvement and continuation in your own parish. Life Teen prepares these students to continue working and supporting their own parish. Father Jay stated our youth are welcome to come for retreats etc., but he recommends that we establish our own Youth Program. Father Jay spoke about the years of time and money that went into building their Life Teen program. Father Jay said that they could afford to do all of this because of Bingo. Father Jay said that it would be hard to have to establish something this vibrant in this economy.

Lou B said that they have two full time paid staff members at St Helen just for the Life Teen program. Father John said that we may start looking for someone part time to do the program. A suggestion was made that after Sister Rosemary retires, we could look for a staff member willing to do the Religious Education and youth ministry. That type of position may work in the parish. Father does not know of anyone listed in the Diocese of Cleveland who would apply for this type of position. People looking for work through the Diocese position themselves on the west side or east side of Cleveland.

There are teachers that can make things happen, but you have to have the right person. Who is that right person? Who are the right teachers?

The next meeting for the Youth Group sub-committee is on March 10 at 10am.

**PARISH COUNCIL HOLY WEEK EXPECTATIONS:** The Potluck dinner is at 6:00pm and the mass at 7:30. This year Holy Thursday is at St. Lucy. The Parish Pastoral Council members process in with Father John and are asked to sit in the front pews. The council members then start the washing of the hands and are asked to help with the flow of people (changing the towels, being sure there is enough water, directing the parishioners). Father said that Richard Geraci will be doing the readings on Holy Thursday.

**EASTER VIGIL MASS:** Father asked council to wear their I.D. and welcome people. There are 4 readings and the epistle reading at the Vigil Mass. Can parish council members help with the readings? Father said that there will be two people baptized and three people making confirmation at the mass.

**POT LUCK DINNER:** Karen reminded the council members that they are responsible for the Potluck dinner. Plates, napkins, silverware and serving utensils need to be out. Coffee and punch need to be made and available. Tables and chairs need to be arranged. Who is willing to take care of this part? Sharon said she will help set up and make coffee and punch. Set will be at 5:00pm. Anyone else who can help is encouraged to be there. There will also be clean up after? Anyone able to do that?

**LENTEN MISSION WRAP UP:** No one from the planning team was at this meeting to give the wrap-up. Father John said that he felt that it was very good. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. Father said that he was glad that he was prompted to have the Lenten Mission. This group really wanted to be sure it happened and for that he is appreciative.

**WOMEN'S RENEWAL:** Sharon S. said it is the renewal weekend is coming along fine. There is a lot of outside volunteers helping because there are only 5 people on this year's team. Sharon said that she is overwhelmed by the past Women Renewalist who have stepped up to help. Chris Bodnar is doing the cooking for the whole weekend. She makes awesome food. Some of the confirmation class is supposed to be helping with food prep and serving. Sharon asked that Father John continue to promote the weekend at mass.

Father John said that he would still like to see a young student representative coming to our council meeting. Karen suggested asking Jonathan Holt or one of the Peterson girls. It was also suggested that perhaps Marsha or Lou could recommend one of their students. It would be great if we could have a youth represented at our next meeting.

#### **AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

G.O.F. Update

Youth Group

Parish Life Survey

Volunteer Appreciation Update

Holy Week Needs

Women's Renewal Wrap Up

Father John stated someone is willing to pay to have a hand rail installed by the altar at St. Lucy. This should be fairly easy to at St Lucy. St. Edward may be more difficult due to the Terrazzo floor.

Also someone suggested using hand sanitizer before giving out communion. It is already being done at St. Lucy. The sanitizer is near the keyboard at St. Lucy. Should we be doing it at St Edward? Karen said that if we do use the sanitizer, be sure your hands are dry before touching the Eucharist. Karen said that she has gotten Jesus and it has tasted like alcohol.

**REMINDER:** Holy Thursday will be at St. Lucy this year and Holy Saturday will be at St. Edward.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

**Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm at St. Lucy.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary