

**SS. Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**Thursday February 1, 2018**

**Members present:** Fr. John Burkley, Jacque Soltis, Sharon Mathies, Sharon Seliskar, Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, Donna Kolesar, Lou Bodnar, Bill Scicolone, Dennis Szymanski, Marge Petras, and Jan Helt. (Secretary)

**Members not present:** Erin Shirkey and Cliff Evans

Staff present: Karen Thrasher.

Others present: Michael Hollowell

Father opened meeting with Prayers and reflection.

**Review of November minutes:** Sharon M motioned to approve minutes and Jacque S seconded. Karen T reminded everyone that in order to approve minutes, you would have had to have attended the meeting. There were only 3 members at the December meeting!

**G.O.F. UPDATE:** Sister sent in an update for GOF again. Everyone went over the update. (see attached) Karen T explained to the new members that Sister Rosemary is not always able to attend each meeting, but Sister always prepares a monthly report on Generations of Faith and the Sacramental Programs.

**PARISH HAVING FUN TOGETHER:** Father John stated that everyone seemed to enjoy the Chili Cook-off that was held on January 7th after the 0:30 mass. Karen said she heard that there were 8 entries. Kathie Jackson was the winner of the Cook-off. The next event is movie night. It will be held on February 2nd again at St. Lucy in the meeting room. Everyone was encouraged to come and enjoy. Father said that it would be great if more parishioners would attend these event. Michelle works very hard on planning the events hoping that more and more families will attend. Hopefully Michelle will not get discouraged.

**YOUTH GROUP DISCUSSION:** Father John said that a group of individuals met with Father Jay and Theresa Zichert to discuss their Life Teen program and the possibilities of our youth joining the St. Helen Life Teen Program. The individuals who met were Jim and Becky O'Reilly, Mike Hollowell, Erin Shirkey, Lou Bodnar, Father Jay, Father John and Theresa Zichert. Father said that we heard more about their impressive program that has been built up over the years at St. Helens. It has taken them years to get where they are. We realize that building our youth ministry will not happen overnight in our parish either. We all realize that our youth are the future of our parish. We all agree that we need someone who is dedicated to working with our youth. Theresa gave us more insight on what they do to steer the youth into their program. Father Jay said that he does not want our kids going there to mass or having their youth come to our mass, because it is important to maintain our own youth in order to build up own parishes.

The Life Teen retreat will be in April 10. The retreat is held at Cam Wise in Burton. Father Jay said that it takes years to build up your youth group and it takes the right person to lead it. Father Jay said that the program is funded through fundraisers and donations. Father Jay said that our students are welcome to join St Helen's for the retreat. Sister Rosemary has actually made arrangements for our Confirmation students to attend either the St. Helen Confirmation retreat on March 10, from 10:00 a.m.-5 p.m. or the St. Mary Confirmation retreat on Saturday, March 3 or Sunday, March 4. We have 5 students making their Confirmation this year.

**APPRECIATION DINNER:** Another discussion was held on how we can best acknowledge our many volunteers this year. Karen said that she has been doing some research regarding how other parishes acknowledge their volunteers. Karen said she was hoping to find a fresh idea. Karen suggested that we could do

something on a monthly basis. We have about 60 ministries or volunteer organizations (individual) that are lumped under 6 different categories; Caring, Celebrating, Administrative, Evangelizing, General Activities and Church Maintenance. Perhaps we could celebrate a different category for the next six months. Maybe if we promote our ministries at mass, more people will get involved in the future. Lou suggested that we should celebrate them all at once with a one big hurrah in church at all masses. Lou thought that we should announce each ministry and have our volunteers stand. Some parish council members felt that asking people to stand to be acknowledged would not go over very well. Some people may not stand up to be recognized. Karen T said that by celebrating the different categories at mass, we would be acknowledging volunteers for a period of six months. Karen said that you could list the ministries under that category in the bulletin for the month. You could include those ministries in the mass intentions for the month also. Bernadette reminded everyone that we did not have a great turnout last year for our wine and cheese event and continuing to host this type of appreciation event may not be the best use of church funds. Nothing was decided. We are still discussing all our options and brainstorming on what to we want to do.

**Elections:** Sharon Seliskar volunteered to be chairperson for the year. A show of hands was taken. It was unanimous. Sharon was approved as our new chair-person. Karen T. explained to Sharon S what is involved in being chairperson. The chair-person takes the suggested Agenda Items from the previous meeting and works with Father John to add or delete topics for the future meeting. The chair-person also handles the flow of each monthly meeting. Bernadette Bogdas-Guy volunteered to be the back-up chair-person. Jacque S wanted Sharon to know that she had started sending out an e-mail reminder to everyone about a week before each meeting. Jacque also requested that members notify Sharon if they are not able to attend the meeting. Thank you to Sharon and Bernadette for volunteering. A round of applause was given to Jacque Soltis for serving last year as our chair-person. Kudos to Jacque for a job well done.

**PARISH LIFE SURVEY:** The sub-committee of Father John, Bernadette, Lou and Dennis are still working on what survey they want to use. Lou B. said they did discuss using open ended questions for the survey. Lou said that the committee did like the CARA survey that Father John gave them to look over, but we would need to get permission to use it. Bernadette volunteered to contact the company regarding any copyright issues. Lou said that they are considering passing the survey out after the Homily and have parishioners complete it and put it in the collection. The group doesn't want anyone taking it home to complete. The group has discussed possibly color coding some questions; such as which church they are registered at, where they live, what mass they attend, etc. Color coding would make it easier to sort the answers. There are limited open ended questions. Bernadette said that she felt that it not only addresses how our church doing, but it also prompts a lot of things that she had not thought about. It will really be interesting to see the results. This survey targets the parishioners who attend mass. Maybe in the future we can address the people who do not attend by mailing out the survey enclosing a self-addressed envelope. The group will continue to meet and sort out the details.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** Karen said that in the past years, we have had someone from the parish council attend the annual Kick-off meeting, but no one was able to go this year. Karen has received the appeal package and is preparing for the Appeal weekend. The Appeal is the weekend of February 11 & 12. Father John said he will play a short sound video from Bishop Perez at mass. Karen asked the council members to be sure to help that weekend if they are needed to pass out the envelopes.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE:** Everyone was reminded again if you can't attend the meeting, please let the chairperson know ahead of time. That way the chairperson can make an informed decision on whether to reschedule the meeting. We had only 3 members, Father John and Jan attend the December meeting. We were unable to move forward on any topics because we did not have enough members for a vote.

Father John suggested that council members could do the readings for Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday masses. He stated that it is always good when parish council members are present to support the new people who are fully welcomed into our Catholic community at the Easter Vigil.

**LAVENDER SPA:** Jan said that everyone who attended this retreat seemed to enjoy the time spent together. Jan, Karen Morrow, Holly Soltis and Chris Bodnar were the four individuals who put on this retreat day. Jan said that we went over different psalms and discussed them together. Individuals who attended the retreat were seated at the different tables. We had everyone write on the white board with permanent marker. They also wrote a complaint on the board using a washable marker. At the end of the day, we sprayed the board with water. All of the complaint washed away, but all the good comments stayed on the board. This was very moving and showed that God is good and shows everyone the good in this world, and that we need to wash out the bad.

This planning team will be meeting with Father John to discuss holding another retreat day in the fall.

**PARISH LENTEN MISSION:** Mike Hollowell invited all parish council members to participate in this 3 day event as ushers for the “Unconditionally” Parish Lenten Mission being held February 18, 19, and 20. Father John said there will be a meal the first night and on Monday and Tuesday, refreshments will be served. Lou said that he has been a Catholic all his life and he was confused as to what a Parish Mission is. Lou felt that it should be explained in more detail so that others would want to attend. Jan suggested that Lou attend the Parish Mission and then he would know exactly what it is. Michael Hollowell and Father John explained that a Parish Mission is like a 3 day retreat which will refresh and recharge your spiritual lives.

### **AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

G.O.F.

Youth Group Discussion:

Parish Life Survey update

Volunteer Appreciation suggestions

Parish Council Holy Week Expectations (Potluck dinner on Holy Thursday, Washing of the Hands, Readings at the Vigil Mass, etc.

February Mission wrap-up

Women’s Renewal

FYI:

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 February 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm at St. Edward**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary