

## **SS Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**

### **Thursday October 22, 2015 at St. Edward**

**Members present:** Fr. John Burkley, Mike Hollowell, Mike Hanish, Maria Cocco, Kathleen Hyden, Scott Wojtasik, Ann Halstead, Joan Spangler, Dale Holcomb, Yvonne Tetzlaf and Jan Helt (Secretary)

**Members not present:** Jon Shively, Fran and Nick Frank.

**Staff present:** Karen Thrasher

**Staff not present:** Melissa Joyce

Father John opened the meeting with the Gospel reading. Reflection followed.

**Review of September minutes:** Maria Coco motioned to accept minutes as read Mike Hanish seconded.

**DRE report:** Mel Joyce was not present to give report.

#### **New Business:**

**Stewardship: (St. Vincent DePaul Dining Hall in Warren)** Joan Spangler stated that this ministry is a very viable group of volunteers. Joan said there is a core group of about 10 to 12 people who show up each month consistently. The total number of volunteers is 20-25. She said she lets people know what the menu is each month by email also telling them what is needed and they come through for her. She gets lots of donations. We are doing great. This ministry is thriving. Everyone knows what their job is and comes and does it. There is a group from St Helen Church who come about twice a year. Our Youth Group has only come once. Joan said that Joan Komar is back on board so we kind of plan everything together working as co-chairpersons. We do not have a problem getting people to help at St Vincent DePaul. We never know exactly everything we are going to cook till we get there, but we have lots of fun doing it. Dale suggested that we have groups sign up to volunteer to help. Maria Coco stated that groups used to volunteer to go to the dining hall in Warren, but at times there were too many people there. Joan said again that we really do not have a problem getting people to help. It was suggested that it would be nice if our Youth group got involved. Joan S said what we have now works. Karen said that if everything is working well, leave it be....Don't try to fix something that isn't broken.

**Welcome Wagon:** Joan said she is working on it. Joan said there are enough people to help out, but she just needs to get it together and do it. Joan said that she felt she should have something to take out to the new families. Karen T said she has some items that can be put in the Welcome Wagon packet like medals or the latest bulletin. Joan S promised that she would do better with the Welcome Wagon.

**Survey action Items:** Maria Cocco showed everyone the suggestion boxes she made. Marie will be placing the boxes in the entrance area of both churches. The cards are simple. They just ask for suggestions and comments. Marie will ask someone to check the boxes at each church on a routine basis.

Maria C said she saw there was a discussion in the minutes about CETAP questions from the survey. Maria said that she thinks we need to get back to the group and let them know how it works. Mike Hollowell said there are only 4 or 5 families involved now and they all know exactly what CETAP covers. He suggested maybe we open CETAP assistant up to High school students also instead of leaving whatever money is in that account. Father John said that the CETAP families do not want to host the Chinese Auction anymore and if that happens, the money in that account will dry up pretty fast. Mike Hanish stated that the Chinese Auction is an established fund raiser that is very profitable. He cannot understand why they want to give it up. Mike Hollowell said there are only 4 families in CETAP and it is difficult for them to do this on their own. Mike said they are also involved in other ministries. Mike said you can only get so much water out of a well! He said that they are busy with their families and it is difficult to add this to their requirements. Maria Coco said she disagrees with Mike. This group gets a lot of help from other people in our parish. The Women's Club for years now has put all the baskets together for them. There are other people who will help them. Karen T also said that the group gets lots of help from other parishioners. Mike Hollowell said they are asking for help right now. I personally know 2 of the families and they are booked. Father John said that the Chinese Auction fundraiser was handed over to the CETAP families because there was less than 5% of the parish who wanted to send their children to St. Helens (or a Catholic school) and we did not think it was fair for the parish to pay for those students. The CETAP families were originally required to plan and host the Chinese Auction and the Octoberfest. Now the sole fundraiser is the Chinese Auction because the families thought 2 fundraisers were too much to ask of them. Father John said the Chinese Auction is a well, established fundraiser that has covers the yearly CETAP expenses. Why would they want to give it up? That makes no sense. "God helps those who help themselves". Mike Hanish and Father John suggested we explain what the CETAP Program is for in the bulletin again. Perhaps some people might not know it is available to them. Maybe there will be more people who want to send their children to catholic school.

Maria C. said we are taking up too much of her presentation time. Let's move forward. One of the other things mentioned on the survey was to have a mass once a month for our absent brothers and sisters. Karen said that Father always adds our absent brothers and sisters in the prayers for special intentions. Father John said that if we want the mass specifically for that intention, we have to plan ahead and put it in the mass book.

Another mention was that the Parish Pastoral Council members need to be more visible. It was suggested that PPC members volunteer to host Donut Sunday at both churches. What about doing the January Sunday? Other ministries host it at St. Edward and PPC could coordinate the St. Lucy donut Sunday with Sharon Mathies. Father John suggested that we get name badges for everyone on PPC. Karen T said that we had made badges in the past for them. Maria C. said she is willing to post an article in the bulletin letting everyone know what PPC has accomplished regarding the survey requests. Maria said she will also give an update at next month's meeting which is her last one.

It was also suggested that we review our Mission Statement and post them. Karen T said they are already posted in both churches. Maria C said maybe we need to go over them.

Mike Hanish said there are still a lot of people who do not understand what PPC does. Some think we just spend money. They confuse us with the Parish Finance Council. Maybe we need to post more information regarding the Parish Pastoral Council in the bulletin.

**Joyfully Gifted:** Dale H asked if Father has gotten anything back from the Diocese of Cleveland Stewardship office. Father stated the only thing we received were the cards that the people who attended completed regarding their charisms. Dale H said he thought we were all supposed to receive individual reports. Father John said that the DOC Stewardship Office is still doing the Joyfully Gifted retreats. Dale H said he will have to give Terri Baldwin from the Stewardship Office a call to see what happens next. Dale H said he will follow up and find out what is going on and get back to PPC.

**PPC nominations:** Kathleen said there was 46 people nominated and 2 accepted to run so far. Karen explained that 46 people were nominated usually by someone else but it does not guarantee that the person wants to be on the ballot. Father John said that it is really difficult to get pictures of the people nominated to put in the bulletin because everyone goes to a different mass. We have tried it in the past and it has not been easy to accomplish. Each year, Jan and Father John have made calls to each nominee who has not responded to the letter that was sent to them. That way we are positive who wants to be on the ballot.

**Catholic Charities Kick-off campaign:** We were unable to get to the first meeting. The office will receive the actual Catholic Charities packet sometime in January. The 2016 appeal will be the weekend of February 6 & 7. Father John said that all the churches tried to get the Diocese of Cleveland to change the appeal back to May but they didn't listen to the suggestion. Last year's appeal was certainly difficult. We had major snowstorms on 2/3 weekends forcing parishes to continue the appeal Sunday after Sunday.

**Website updates:** Father John said that Kim Breyley from the Middlefield Post is working on a new design for our parish website to make it more friendly. Karen T said she will be meeting with her on Wednesday. She has asked Cory to be there also. Father said that it is everything we already have, but prettier. Father said that Kim is only the designer. We will have to have someone still maintain the website and we are hopeful that Cory will still consider doing it. It will be different, new and fresh. Kim said the old website was not accessible with an Iphone or the newer technology available. Maria C. said that is not a true statement. She accesses it all the time. Maria took out her phone and showed everyone. Maria also asked what was wrong with our website as it is. Maria thought that it was already friendly and very easy to move from page to page.

Karen said that Kim Breyley (the Middlefield Post) was called on the Friday before the Chicken Dinner and

the Octoberfest but did not show up at either event to take pictures or write an article for the newspaper. Karen T. also said that she has had to make a lot of corrections on the articles that Kim has done on the “meet our parishioner ????” Kim sends them to her to edit prior to publishing. There seems to be a lot of spelling errors and incorrect information about the parishes. It takes several edits to get it published correctly.

**Stewardship Survey Status:** Kathleen said she would be e-mailing each ministry leader the names of the interested volunteers soon. Maria asked Kathleen if she could ask the ministries to report back what they do with the surveys. It would help to see if they follow through on calling everyone who shows an interest in their ministry?

Father said that at the Priest’s Convocation meeting with Bishop Lennon they will be talking about the cluster churches, so we will have to meet with St Helen’s at some time. We will be discussing the trends (total Catholic Households, registered, mass attendance, PSR attendance, sacramental numbers, etc) in all the Cleveland area Parishes. It should be interesting.

Next meeting Agenda as follows:

1. New PPC Members
2. Preview Mission Statement
3. Trend report-Priest Convocation
4. Plans for fun activities-Parish Has Fun Ministry
5. DRE Report
6. Survey Update

Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday November 19, 2015 at 7:00pm at St. Lucy

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary