

## **SS Edward and Lucy Parish Pastoral Council Minutes December 17, 2015 at St. Edward**

**Members present:** Fr. John Burkley, Mike Hollowell, Kathleen Hyden, Ann Halstead, Donna Kolesar, Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, Jacque Soltis, Yvonne Tetzlaff, Deacon Greg Frania, Fran and Nick Frank and Jan Helt (Secretary)

**Members not present:** Scott Wojtasik, Mike Hanish and Joan Spangler

**Staff present:** Karen Thrasher      **Staff not present:** Mel Joyce

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

### **REVIEW OF NOVEMBER MINUTES**

Nick Frank motioned to accept minutes as read Mike Hollowell seconded.

**PPC OFFICER ELECTIONS:** Karen nominated Kathleen as Parish Council Chairperson and Jan H. seconded. Karen T stated that Kathleen H. has done a wonderful job this year as chairperson. Kathleen thanked her for the compliment, but declined the nomination for the chairperson position. Jacque S. asked for an explanation of the job description of the vice chairperson's position. Kathleen explained that the vice chairperson takes over for the chairperson if that person is absent. The chairperson's is responsible for setting up the agenda for each meeting and coordinating the flow of the actual meeting. Jacque said that she would be willing to be the Vice Chairperson this year. Fran F was nominated for Chairperson. Fran F. said that she would be absent for at least one meeting, possibly two, but if everyone was comfortable with that, she would agree to take on the responsibility of chairperson again. There were no other nominations nor did anyone else volunteer for these positions so a vote was taken. Fran F will be our Chairperson and Jacque S will be our Vice Chairperson for 2016.

**DRE REPORT:** Mel Joyce was not present. Mel did type out a report that reads as follows:

We had a great first half of the year. We celebrated Mass together in September, had Life Works Ohio speak to the older grades and handled life issues as a large group in October. In November we had a session on "wanting" and how we as Americans view "stuff" opposed to how Jesus asks us to view "stuff". In December we had a communal penance service and offered confession to all in attendance.

Concerns: Attendance is declining. We started the year at over 200. December's attendance was 124. I saw pictures of people on Facebook picking out their Christmas tree, playing basketball and sitting on Santa's lap during the time GOF was going on. Why are people making these choices when there is plenty of other time to do these things? December is usually a tough month, but I was pretty shocked by the few people there. Hopefully as the New Year starts, people will come back.

Upcoming in 2016

January-Commandments 6 &9: We will deal with moral issues surrounding marriage with grade 8-adult. February-Commandment 8: Living Truthfully. March-Mercy and Forgiveness and April-Remembering all the Commandments.

Sacrament classes are up and running. First Reconciliation will be on January 30 at 11:00 at St Lucy.

Living the Eucharist: Begins on February 10 (Ash Wednesday). This was a small group study program that we did as a Lenten penance last year. At least 60 people in the parish attended a session. It was very uplifting and a great experience.

#### **DISCUSSION AFTER READING MEL'S REPORT**

Father John said that he only had about 6 people in attendance at the Adult Friday session of Generations of Faith. This year's decision to only offer 1 day per month for families to attend Generations of Faith may be one reason that attendance is declining. Father John stated that Mel Joyce is planing on stepping down at the end of the season. He said that Mel said the reason that she needs to resign is that she is busy with her children and with Jerry out of town a lot, it makes it more difficult. Father John said he is hopeful that one of the Notre Dame Nuns will lead our program next year. Father said that he will keep the parish council informed as to who may take over the role of Director of Religious Education. Mike Hollowell said that we may have to offer more days or during the week sessions next year. Nick Frank said that it makes sense that the decline in attendance is tied to the fact that we dropped the Friday session for families. Everyone agreed that we need to further discuss this situation at our future meetings.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**LENTEN PROGRAMS AND SMALL GROUPS:** Our "Living the Eucharist" program will again be offered this year in small group format. This was a small group study program we did as a Lenten penance last year. At least 60 people in the parish attended one of the sessions offered. It was very uplifting and a great experience. It will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 10.

**APPRECIATION DINNER:** The Appreciation Dinner will be held on the last Sunday in February, the 28th at St Edward Rose Hall. Karen T said that the last Appreciation Dinner was also held at St. Edward. Karen said that in order for her to be able to coordinate the dinner, it would help if it was held at St. Edward. Karen said that it is much more difficult hosting this gathering at St. Lucy since she does a lot of the ground work preparing and setting up. Karen said that it was not a problem to host it at St. Lucy, but then someone else would need to step up and plan the event. It was agreed that it will be at St. Edward again this year. Jacque S. said she will be glad to help but she did not want be in charge. Karen T said we have hosted anywhere from 80 to 200 people. Bernadette said that she is also willing to help. Karen, Jacque, Bernadette and Jan will get together and coordinate the event. Jan offered to do whatever needs done.

**2016 CATHOLIC CHARITIES CAMPAIGN:** Karen T. said that we have not received anything in the office as of yet. Normally, Catholic Charities send the campaign kit to the parishes sometime in January.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW PARISH DIRECTORY:** The Parish directory is here. Everyone applauded to thank her for her hard work and for again stepping in to complete the directory. There was a lot involved. Karen asked for some volunteers to pass the free directories out at each of the Masse this weekend. Karen said that she put a label with the family name for any family who is receiving a free directory. Anyone who had their picture taken will get one free. Anyone else will have to pay \$10.00 for it. Karen asked that after you give out the directory to the family, to please keep the post it and turn them into the office. That is the only way to be sure that the directories are distributed correctly. We have plenty of directories for families to purchase after Christmas.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NAME BADGES** were passed out to everyone to wear at church events. Father John also asked that parish council members be available at the Christmas masses to hand out the books, "A Minute in the Church", The Mass. Give out one book per family.

Karen said that only one person, Donna Kolesar has turned in the autobiography sheet that Maria Cocco asked all council members to complete. Maria needs then turned in so that she can put together an article on parish council members for the next newsletter. The deadline is January 31.

Kathleen asked if someone from each church is checking the **SUGGESTION BOXES**. Jacque said she did pick up the ones from the at St Lucy box. Karen T said that she has taken care of collecting the ones at St. Edward. Jacque said that there were only one at St. Lucy. It was a Ziggy cartoon with 2 boxes. One said suggestions and the other said demands. Karen said that she had given the ones from St. Edward to Father John. One suggestion was a request for Father to announce which Eucharist Prayer that he was going to say so that the person could follow along in the missalette. The second suggestion was tell people not to bang the kneelers. The third suggestion was to use lighter chalices because the person said that they are either going to drop their cane or the chalice and either one would be a disaster. It was agreed that we need to at least acknowledge that we read the suggestions.

Parish Pastoral Council will be **HOSTING THE GATHERING** on January 3 at St. Edward and on February 7 at St. Lucy. This will involve setting up for the event, being present to serve the donuts, mingling with the parishioners during the event and cleanup after. Parish Council members are asked to plan on attending. Joan Spangler will coordinate the St. Edward gathering and Jacque will work with Sharon Mathies to coordinate the St. Lucy Gathering in February.

Kathleen stated that the Parish Pastoral council member's information is now posted on our website. Email

addresses are listed so please check it out to be sure everything is correct. The October meeting minutes are also posted on our website. November minutes will be added since they were approved tonight.

Next meeting Agenda as follows:

1. Appreciation Dinner Update
2. Catholic Charities in February
3. Mission Statement
4. DRE Report
5. Bios need to be turned
6. Donut Sunday report

Everyone was introduced to Donna Kolesar and Bernadette Bogdas-Guy, our newest members.

Kathleen H asked for a motion to adjourn. Nick F. made the motion, Ann H. seconded

Our next meeting will be on Thursday January 28, 7:00pm at St. Lucy

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Helt, Secretary