

MINUTES

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Tuesday November 29th 2016

7:00 p.m.

Rectory

Members in attendance: Father Matthew, Deacon Bob and Diane Hitter, Steve Berti, Stephanie Myers, Carol Pyra, Ed St. John, Joanne Pasquini and John Bianchi

Opening Prayer : Deacon Bob Hitter

John Bianchi gives us a presentation about his committee Cheshire Master Plan. He states the committee currently has 9 members that began meeting in Jan. 2016. The committee is looking to obtain information, research and ideas from local residents about what they envision Cheshire to be in 10 years. The committee is looking for established groups of Cheshire residents for discussion pertaining to future ideas and suggestions to keep Cheshire vibrant. There is a meeting in the Town Hall this Thursday at 6:00, which is an open meeting. Fr Matthew will post meeting date on Facebook.

Review of last months minutes: Addendum to last minutes to include both Carol Pyra and Stephanie Myers agreeing to be members of their prospective new committees but do not wish to Chair them.

Motion to approve minutes accepted

Committee Updates:

Carol Pyra speaks on behalf of the Evangelization Outreach Committee. Carol says she has one potential member to join the group with her so far. Carol says the new social media for the church is part of a very big movement toward change and outreach and that our new updated website is great due to the work Michelle Francesconi has been doing. Diane mentions ways to reach our college students perhaps via Facebook, email or personal letter asking if they would like bulletin mailed to them. Carol also inquires about the church bells and if they could be on a schedule to ring since she believes they are a great form of outreach thru the community. Father suggests times for bells are 8 am, 12 pm. & 6pm daily. Deacon Bob says he will schedule the bells to ring at those times. Deacon Bob also says the heat system needs to be reset due to the time change. Carol suggests using a theme for each mass and wonders where we can find the weekly themes. Father says he will research the themes. Deacon Bob suggests using the entrance antiphons instead. Carol also mentions the people scheduled as servers and lectures and such not showing up for their scheduled times shows poorly for us all. Deacon Bob says we do not have enough children to altar serve. Deacon Bob is considering using more funeral acolytes to altar serve as we are already utilizing some adults now at Saturday masses. Steve Berti suggests using Facebook to make an appeal for more altar servers. Steve says he will work to encourage his CCD students to be more involved. Carol mentions the results from our latest census and Father says it's a

project in the works due to many issues and Michelle has it on her list of projects. Carol comments on the new church signage and how inviting it is along with the landscape improvements. Father says he hopes to fill the committees with more people and begin to plan events. Carol and Deacon Bob discuss the use of nametags for the ministers and greeters, Diane suggests using insignias to identify each ministry.

Steve Berti speaks on behalf of the Youth Ministry Committee. Steve says Angela Sczcepaniak has offered to be the head of the Children's Choir and that Ann Cain is very much on board with the idea. Steve will send out sign up forms to the children and he plans to ask Hoosac Valley Band to be involved in a few masses during the year. Steve says Tina Lancia has many ideas for events involving youth and families such as corn hole tournaments in the hall and movie nights. She is willing to coordinate those events and have sign up sheets for them. Deacon Bob will look into the technology needed for a movie night. Steve says a DJ has volunteered services should we hold a dance in the future.

*Carol suggests using soft music during the Epiphany and makes a motion to avoid a DJ during that reverent event. Motion was approved by all.

Steve asks about liability issues if he wants to travel to religious events with students in the future. Ed says that would have to be researched but suggests it is a huge liability issue. Diane and Deacon Bob say parents would have to transport the kids to these events as of now. Father says he receives many ideas and suggestions from parishioners during times when he has no way to record or write them down and doesn't want to forget any of the ideas so from now on will defer each idea to the appropriate committee members. Father will then confer with committees for review and final approval of each idea.

Stephanie Myers speaks on behalf of the Spiritual Activities Committee. Stephanie suggests the first event should be a workshop or retreat in Feb. geared to adult education. Father says we need to acquire a TV/DVD combo for the workshop content and for confirmation classes also. Stephanie is hopeful that the use of Facebook to announce the events will bring in more people. Stephanie would like to ask Sister Natalie and Sister Eunice to guest speak at retreats and maybe a question and answer session to help dispel old church misconceptions and inform us all of the new evangelization Pope Francis is hoping to teach us.

Joanne Pasquini speaks on behalf of the Spiritual Life Committee. Joanne is working to recruit people to assist with visiting our shut-ins. Father mentions Ann Cain would like to be a visitor. Father says he will appeal for help via Facebook.

New business: Diane mentions that our meetings will be open for the public soon and Father suggest the first 15 minutes of the meeting will be open for public comments.

Father discusses adding more members from North American Martyrs to each committee and wants to encourage more parishioners from the chapel to attend the Epiphany and all events held at St Mary's.

All agree that our January 23, 2017 meeting will be an open meeting for the public. We agree to have the meeting in the hall and will have a question and answer segment on the agenda.

Ed St John announces members of the Finance committee. He says the past year has been challenging but all members are very knowledgeable and helpful in every way. Ed reminds us that many of the improvements made recently to the church and rectory were very necessary such as the carpets being replaced after 40 years. Ed also states that the furnace is from 1967 and the bathrooms in the rectory where in dire need of renovations.

We wish Joanne a wonderful winter in Florida.

Motion to end meeting at 9:05 approved by all.

Next Meeting will be January 23, 2017.

Closing Prayer given by Father Matthew.

Minutes submitted by
Stephanie Myers