

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes, February 27, 2022

Attendees: Clergy: Father Dillon, Members: Yolande Eldridge, Greer Koerner, Sue Croce, Jill Kennelly, Debra Falvey, Beth Kozarec, Fran Wainer, Youth (Peer Ministry) Representative: Matt Celotto

Absent: Stephanie Deixler, Maureen Fuest, Valerie LaShane, Carol McCormick, Elaine Carter, Bill White, Thomas Duffy, Harold Hutchinson, Youth Representatives: Connor DeBoda, Gabe Mongelli

Opening Prayer – Fr. Dillon: Father Dillon opened the meeting with opening prayer @ 6:35pm

Bios on webpage: Discussed whether to include bios with the photos of the Pastoral Council. It was agreed that just photos will be posted, for now. It was suggested to possibly include a bulleted summary of relevant parishioner information as it pertains to each council member – how long with parish/on council/involvement in parish, etc. Yolande was going to work on a template so that all information would be the same. Jill offered to take the lead on collecting bio question responses.

Gentle Reminder: If everyone can be aware and provide responses in a timely manner, it is most appreciated. We are also still missing some photos.

Approval of minutes, Jan. 2022: The minutes were approved.

Pastor update--Fr. Dillon: *The Forward with Faith* campaign is moving slowly. Father Dillon is working on getting contractors for Father Sullivan building to get estimates on fixing the roof. There are many leaks coming from the roof that are in need of repair. This is the biggest priority. For the campaign, the parish needs to identify what amount of financing is needed, and the finance committee is diligently working through what is needed. Right now, looking to raise \$860K total - \$430k will go to the parish directly and the remainder will go to the Bishop's Foundation. Any amount raised over \$860k, the parish will keep 80% of the amount and 20% will go to the Bishops Foundation. Imperative to get a case study (why raising the funds) completed in order to move forward with the *Forward with Faith* campaign. We only have the resources (consultants) from the archdiocese until the end of the year. The other projects for consideration are the brick wall and sidewalks in need of repair. A columbarium quote for the St. George Cemetery as well as space consideration is being looked into. Some of the projects will need to get approved from the town's Historical Commission.. An alternate suggestion for the brick wall repair were plantings, in lieu of the wall.

Pastoral Council Start Time: It was suggested that the start time for the Pastoral Council meeting be moved up to 6pm vs. 630pm. Thus, we will be trialing a 6pm Pastoral Council start time for the remainder of the year.

Parish Liaison Report- Fran Wainer: Grade 2 will be starting reconciliation and will end March 26. There are 78 children.

PreK-K learned about St. Valentine and had a nice craft activity.

First Communion is scheduled for 4/30 and 5/7. There will be Bible Camp this year and dates are 7/11-7/14. The tentative date for the Service Camp will be 7/18-7/22, and will be 7th and 8th graders, possible 6th graders as well.

It was also discussed about the opportunity to improve lighting along the brick walkways, sidewalks, and in front of the church near the street on the sidewalk. Lighting has been updated in front of the church sidewalk and in the dome as well.

Father Dillon let the council know that seasonal signs had been ordered that also included messages and would be rotated to correspond with a specific season.

Peer Ministry Report: The 10th grade retreats have been successful, held four thus far and one more to complete. Retreats have been great, enthusiastic and successful. Predicting the number of peer ministers will increase because the retreats have been great and enjoyable.

The 9th grade retreats and faith night are coming up in March—each student attends with parents. Connor reported he sat in and it was an impactful experience. Sean Forest – inspirational speaker, specific to high school, helps navigate through questions of faith in God. Classes have been all in person, no zoom; most recent class talked about cultural diversity and watched video. Confirmation will be 5/21 at the Cathedral in Hartford. The 8th graders are planning a toy drive. 7th and 8th graders will be working on smaller service projects.

Prisoner Release Backpack Project: Peer Ministers will place an announcement in the bulletin the week of 3/13 and project collection will end 4 weeks after that. Encouraging youth representatives to talk about this Backpack collection at the pulpit during masses (can split, so that each mass is covered). Greer to work with youth ministers on messaging to address the congregation, requesting support for this ministry. Will be reaching out to CCD classes first to donate and then requesting parish support to supplement with items not able to collect from classes. Will also send emails to parents of CCD kids. Yolande had reached out to ESCA about getting students involved in donation of items and they were not able to at this time.

ESCA survey and Photos on Website-Y. Eldridge: The results from the ESCA survey of the Pastoral Council were reviewed and discussed. It was suggested in the responses that a Service Coordinator might be beneficial to both ESCA and the parish; Yolande to discuss with the principal. Discussion around speaking with the St. George families that are attending ESCA to solicit feedback and engagement in parish/ESCA activities. Knights of Columbus were looking to get student volunteers from ESCA or parish for carnival assistance – Yolande will work with Tom.

Accessing volunteers for events–Thom Duffy and Yolande: Help is needed for the carnival in August. Dates are Aug 9-11. Seeking high school student volunteers, and time could be used as service hours. Yolande will speak with Claire about getting volunteers.

East Shoreline Catholic Academy Auction-Yolande Eldridge: ESCA's HAA (home/school association) was looking for contributions from each parish to support the

school's auction on April 7—a major fundraiser. There is an opportunity for members to purchase a table or tickets if interested. Council decided to put a wine basket/cooler together for donation at the auction. Greer & Sue will be taking the lead and coordinating with the other Pastoral Council members. Looking for each member (if comfortable) to donate a bottle of wine (min \$15 bottle) and any other complimentary wine pairings that the school can auction. A separate email will be sent out to the Pastoral Council to notify members that were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Timeline for new members-Yolande: Fran will look to get the nomination sheet ready for the lottery for Pastoral Council openings to be held on Pentecost Sunday (6/5). Yolande and Fran will work together to put nomination and timeline together which will be inclusive of a discernment meeting for interested individuals. There are 4 openings as terms are up and an additional 2 openings, for a total of 6 openings. Father Dillon also has 1 appointment outside of the lottery process.

Important to note that Pastoral Council members are only allowed three absences per year. The council will review the status of members who are unable to fulfill this in the April meeting.

Re-instating Food Donations by children to altar-Sue: Fran to put notification in the bulletin that will be re-instate food donation by children at every mass. Will pick start date within the next couple weekends.

Securing date for Drive-In: Secured 6/25 as date for drive-in movie, with rain date of 6/26. Do not know what the movie is yet.. Looking to sell food – candy, popcorn, soft drinks. Yolande will follow-up with Tony S. on some additional details.

Closing Prayer: Meeting was closed with a prayer @ 7:58.

The next Parish Council meeting will be in person on 3/27 @ 6pm. Email notification will be sent prior to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Green Koernen, Vice President