

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2022 6:00 pm

Attendees: Clergy: Father Dillon Members: Yolande Eldridge, Greer Koerner, Sue Croce, Jill Kennelly, Harold Hutchinson, Fran Wainer, Debra Falvey, Beth Kozarec, Elaine Carter, Thomas Duffy, Val LeShane, Carol McCormick Peer Ministers: Gabe Mongelli

Absent: Bill White, Conner DeBoda, Matt Celotto

Opening Prayer: Father Dillon opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes of the February 27th meeting were approved.

We were informed that Stephanie Deixler and Maureen Fuest have resigned from the Parish Council. Both will receive a note of thanks and a small gift to acknowledge their service.

In addition, Val LeShane advised that she will resign at the end of the year due to a recent move. Harold Hutchinson's term will come to an end. Debra Falvey's term was due to expire but has been extended until 2023. Greer Koener's term was due to expire but has been extended until 2024. Both were vacancy fulfillments.

Pastor's Update: Father Dillon discussed the *Forward with Faith* campaign progress. Currently, he is meeting with contractors and gathering estimates. It is a slow process. The committee is focusing on long term maintenance and safety issues as well as the possible addition of a Columbarium to the St. George Cemetery. A proposal for the Columbarium has been submitted to the Zoning Department for review and approval.

Father reported that he is encouraging members of the Parish to attend the Holy Thursday services, and looking for volunteers for the "washing of the feet". He advised that there will be a multi-church blessing of palms, on Palm Sunday, on the Green at 9:45 am.

Upcoming events include Holy Communion, Confirmation, RCIA induction, and adult Confirmation. First Confessions are in progress. There have been many Baptisms and the religious education students have been participating in Mass doing readings, bringing up the gifts and as greeters. Children have begun to bring food donations to the Altar again.

Father asked the council about their opinions on ending the Livestream of daily Mass and the Livestream of Sunday Mass as well. It was noted there is no longer a dispensation for not attending Mass, does making Mass available online send the wrong message? The council decided to end just the daily livestream at this time. Sunday livestream will continue.

Parish Liason: We were advised that CCD classes are done for the year. There is a program planned for 4/13 –Stations of the Cross.

Peer Ministry: We were advised that the 9th and 10th grade CCD classes are done for the year. The last 10th grade Retreat was just completed.

There has been a great response to the request for donations to the Backpack Project. There are many boxes of donations waiting to be sorted and a total of about \$2100 has been donated thus far. The project coordinators will reach out to the Parish Council in the next week or two for assistance with sorting the supplies. They will also meet to decide how the contributions should be allocated - backpacks, bus cards, etc.

The peer ministers were asked if they are willing to be photographed working on coordinating the backpack supplies? They agreed. A letter from St George will be included in each backpack. There was a suggestion to add a prepaid phone to the backpacks. However, we were advised it is important to stick to the list supplied, so there is consistency in the program.

ESCA: It was suggested to ESCA's Faith and Mission committee that there is a need for student volunteers at the St George Fair, this August. We were advised that the students would have to be accompanied by their parent as well as being supervised by an adult virtue trained volunteer. The student volunteer opportunity is being considered by the ESCA committee.

It was also suggested that there be an "ESCA Sunday" Mass twice a year. This would be an opportunity for the students to work as greeters, bringing up the gifts, etc and allow the St George community to be more connected to the school. A date needs to be proposed and sent to the school.

It was suggested that ESCA students and parents could set up a table at a Knights of Columbus breakfast and offer information about the school and their experience.

Timeline for Elections: We agreed that the Discernment Meeting for prospective Pastoral Council new members will be held Sunday, May 22, 4:30 -5:30 pm. This will be followed by our May Pastoral Council Meeting from 5:30-7 pm.

Drive-in Movie: The group discussed the drive-in movie and agreed it makes sense to opt for a lawn movie event (Lawn In), weekend of June 25. It was also agreed that it would be a free admission event (with the donation of a food item). Simple snacks - popcorn, candy, water, etc - will be sold. We will check if there is a noise ordinance issue and if a permit is needed. The cost (approx \$580) for the equipment and movie rental will be covered by the Parish. We need to check cost for movie rental.

Parish Council Mission: We discussed the need for a Mission Statement to clarify the function of the Parish Council. The bulk of the next meeting will be devoted to this purpose.

Little Miracles: Little Miracles is a group devoted to assisting young mothers and babies. The program collects used baby furniture, strollers, car seats, etc as well as supplying such items as

diapers and formula. The program was started many years ago at St Margaret's in Madison but they have decided, due to insurance concerns, to discontinue their ownership of the program. We are currently meeting with other non-profit LLC programs in the area that offer the same services and hopefully merge Little Miracles with another established LLC program which will resolve the insurance issue.

St Michael prayer: The question was asked: Why do we no longer say the prayer to St Michael at the end of Mass? Father advised that it is an archdiocese directive. Council members noted it was later dropped at St. George. This will be looked into.

The next Parish Council meeting is April 24th at 5:30 pm.

Closing Prayer: The meeting concluded with a prayer shared by the President of the Council at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol McCormick, secretary