

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 22, 2022
5:30 PM - Church Hall

Attendees: Clergy: Father Dillon Members: Yolande Eldridge, Fran Wainer, Sue Croce, Debra Falvey, Greer Koerner, Jill Kennelly, Carol McCormick Peer Ministry: Gabe Mongelli

Absent: Thomas Duffy, Elizabeth Kozarec, Bill White, Val LeShane, Elaine Carter Peer Ministers: Connor DeBoda, Matt Celotto

Opening Prayer: Father Dillon opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:33

Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes of the April Meeting were approved with a correction, The previous minutes were referred to as September Minutes instead of March Minutes.

Pastor Update: Father reported that he did inquire about purchasing the house currently used for the Refugee Resettlement Program, should it become available. He advised that the Church is not interested in becoming a landlord. However, he learned that another group of parishioners once formed a 501C, a non profit private group, to purchase and manage a different property. At this time, we will pursue options for a new rental property for this program.

Father reported that he was encouraged by the strong attendance numbers before and during Easter. Unfortunately, attendance has dropped again. Father advised he'd like to have the parish consider a reduction in the number of Masses on Sunday. Instead of 8:00, 10:00 and 11:30 am Mass, he'd like to propose an 8:30 or 9 am or a 10:30 or 11:00 am Mass. The proposed mass schedule changes will allow for each mass to have a small change in the Mass schedule. Instead of three sparsely attended Masses, we would, hopefully, have two well attended Masses. Saturday Mass would continue to be offered at 4:30. The Holiday Mass schedule would be dealt with separately.

The Pastoral Council voted unanimously to support the proposal for changing the Mass schedule effective January 1, 2023. Parishioners will have an opportunity to vote on the new Mass times through a ballot system. The details will be worked out over the next few months. Father will discuss the process with some of the other priests in the Archdiocese to learn how they managed a similar situation.

The Mass schedule can not be changed before January 1, 2023 because all of the Mass intentions have been reserved up to that date.

Liaison Report: The Knights of Columbus have requested that members of the Pastoral Council volunteer to help with the Family Picnic and the Carnival. The Carnival is scheduled for 8/9-8/13. The Family Picnic is scheduled for September 11th. The Grand Knight will make an announcement closer to the dates of the events.

The Noise Ordinance for our proposed, "Community Movie Night", June 25, has been approved by the Town. The Police have been notified. Next, the Council will send letters to the neighbors to advise them of the event and movie audio during the evening. The movie will start at about 9 pm, and end by 11 pm.

We were advised that the Lobster Festival is scheduled for the same night from 4-8:30.

The Guilford Craft Fair is scheduled for July 15-July 17. St George would like to offer parking in the Church parking lot for a fee. Volunteers will be needed to collect the fee at the entry to the parking area.

On June 12th, St George will offer an evening of Music and Meditation with Mark Forest.

Confirmation was celebrated at the Cathedral on May 21st. It was a great event enjoyed by the Confirmees and their families.

Peer Ministry Report: It was reported that 24 backpacks are near completion. All of the extra items (25 large bags full of supplies) were delivered to the Congregational Church. Eventually, all of the items make their way to the Re-entry Welcome Center in New Haven which is where the newly released prisoners arrive upon release. The Peer Ministers are waiting for a few remaining items to arrive and they will be added to the backpacks later this week. A date for the Blessing of the backpacks was discussed and it was agreed that they would be blessed at the 10 am Mass on June 12th.

It is expected that there will be approximately \$500 dollars remaining after the backpacks are completed. A check will be written in this amount and a donation made to the Welcome Center so they can purchase phones for the newly released prisoners.

The question was asked, "Will this be an annual ministry?" That will be decided by the Peer Ministers and the Pastoral Council next year.

Pastoral Council Lottery: Three new Parish Council candidates attended the Discernment Meeting. They were very enthusiastic about joining the Council and accepted the appointment.. Father will announce the names of the new members at the 10:00 Mass on June 5 They are: Betty Jane Schiller, Jody Fay and Milam Langella.

Movie Update: Ratatouille has been chosen as the movie to be shown on the Community Movie Night on the St. George Lawn. The Licensing Form will be completed and submitted asap. There was a discussion about advertising. We reviewed the proposed advertisement and suggested the following changes/additions.

Add - The donation of canned goods for the food pantry is appreciated.

No alcohol or smoking is permitted.

Bug spray is suggested.

The Courier will be contacted to put a notice in their free Arts and Events section. The Guilford Patch (online communication) will post the event. We will work on pricing some 8 X 11 signage for the event that will be posted at the Library, Town Hall and other locations. ESCA will be notified.

Snacks will be offered for purchase during the event Snacks will include popcorn, candy bars, juice boxes, water.

Father Dillon advised that the parking lot timers would need to be adjusted so they don't turn on during the movie.

It was suggested that we need to make lavatories available to attendees. Father was not comfortable with the security of allowing entry to the Church buildings so it was decided to arrange for Porta Potties. The Town will be contacted to see if they can supply the Porta Potties. Otherwise, Father authorized the expense to order them.

Last Meeting: The last Parish Council meeting of the year will take place on June 26th at 5:30. We will enjoy a light supper followed by a short meeting.. Each member will be asked to contribute either an appetizer, entree, side, dessert or drink. A reminder will be sent out a week prior to the meeting and each member can sign up for their contribution. This will be coordinated to be sure we have a nice variety.

At the June meeting, we will elect new officers, review the updated list of Ministries, welcome the new Council members, and set the calendar for next year

There was a brief discussion of adding a list of Parish Ministries to the bulletin. It was decided this would be too lengthy for the room in the bulletin. It was suggested that the list be posted on the St George website instead.

Closing Prayer: Father Dillon closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol McCormick