

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2022

5:00 PM – SULLIVAN CENTER

**ATTENDEES:** Clergy: Father Dillon Members: Yolande Elldrige, Fran Wainer, Debra Falvey, Thomas Duffy, Jill Kennelly, Carol McCormick, Betty Jane Schiller, Jody Fay, Sue Croce, Bob Keiser, Elizabeth Kozarec

Peer Ministers: Matt Celotto, Gabe Mongelli

**Absent:** Bill White, Greer Koerner & Giana Auter

**Guest Parishioner:** Helen Conroy

**Opening Prayer:** Father Dillon opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:02 pm

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the October 2022 were approved with a few minor revisions

**Pastor Update:** Father reported that the winner of the Christmas Card Contest was a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. The card was beautiful and passed around for all to see. ESCA students participated in the readings and handed out bulletins. The mass was well attended. Father reported that the Forward with Faith campaign was underway, and we are currently in the quiet portion of the campaign. Our parish goal is \$860,000. Father reported that other parishes have reached their goals and that we have reached 50% of our goal thus far. This campaign will not interfere with the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Father reported that the Saint George's cemetery is full and that they may erect a columbarium for cremated remains. Father stated that the church has several upcoming expenses including sidewalk repair at the side of the church; rectory needs work; steeple needs painting. The Hartford Bishops Foundation grants St. George 50 cents on the first dollar and this is done twice per year.

**Liaison Report:** Fran reported that the Knights of Columbus are having a Christmas party on December 10, 2022 and will email an invite to all the religious education classes. There will be pasta, meatballs and bread. The security system is progressing, and fobs will be given to individuals for access. Fran reported that in February 2021 we applied for another round of grants. Other parishes are applying for the grants. Fran reported on the update with regard to Olivia's Cupcakes, Sherry DiMario at Columbus House said cupcake making can resume off site from Columbus House and then delivered to Columbus House. Columbus House continues to have restrictions. Fran reported that we are not doing Abraham's Tent in person however our parish will be collecting for Abraham's Tent personal support. The day after Thanksgiving we will be running a children service project for Abraham's Tent. Fran reported that the Thanksgiving Sharing was a huge success with over 500 turkeys and many gift cards. Obtaining days old bagels from Deke's bagels to donate to the food pantry was brought up. Jody is looking into this.

**Peer Ministry Report:** It was reported that CCD has begun, and the Peer Ministry has activities scheduled through February 2023. The peer ministers are going back to Italy; they are having a craft fair on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> this year. It will be a Holiday Mall where attendees can pick out their gifts. They are doing a drive through holiday at the children's medical center in CT. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be wrapping the gifts. In January they are doing their annual coat drive. In February 2023 they are having a book drive called "Read to Grow " and religious education ends in March 2023. Peer Ministry is very

active and they attribute that to the return of The Trinata Retreat which is November 4<sup>th</sup> thru November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Ministry List Update:** Chair Betty Jane Schiller reported considering an online ministry update with collages of photos of each ministry. The legalities of using photos and needing consent was discussed. Jody volunteered to review a sample waiver and report back to the Council. The Council agreed that further brainstorming in January could lead to this being a spring event.

**“Come Home Again”:** Yolande suggested that we create a St. George magnet with the new mass times and put them in baskets at the church entrances for people to take home. She showed the ESCA magnet as an example as well. There will be no cookie stroll this year at the tree lighting. The men’s group will be serving soup and chili. The Garden Club will be having a boutique in the church hall.

**Board openings:** Bob Keiser has agreed to serve on the Council, and all welcomed him. We still have another opening on the Council. Everyone was encouraged to discern who might be a good addition.

**New business:** Father mentioned that commencing January 2023 the Archbishop has requested that in lieu of Saint Michael’s prayer we will pray for vocations to the priesthood. It was brought up that we may want to charge for parking for the tree lighting and other town events like the art show parking. Father mentioned that this is a private event versus a community event and that we already cede spaces to the local merchants. Seniors also use the spaces for their community events.

Closing Prayer: Father Dillon closed the meeting a prayer at 6:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Jody Fay, Secretary