

**Present:** Fran Wainer, Father Dillon, Sue Croce, Yolande Eldridge, Debra Falvey, Jill Kennelly, Betty Jane Schiller, Carol McCormick and Peer Minister, Matthew Celotto

**Absent:** Bob Keiser, Thom Duffy, Elizabeth Kozarec, Greer Koerner, Bill White, Gianna Amter, Gabe Mongelli

**Opening Prayer:** Meeting began at 5:00 pm with a prayer from Father Dillon.

**Minutes Approved:** February 26, 2023 meeting minutes approved following minor corrections.

**Pastor Update:** Father Dillon commented on a news story about a Eucharistic miracle that may have taken place during the celebration of the Mass at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Thomaston. He advised that this will involve a lengthy process of verification to be considered a miracle.

Father Dillon reported that about 60 students completed first reconciliation recently in preparation for Holy Communion. The dates for Holy Communion were confirmed as 4/30 and 5/7.

Confirmation will take place on 4/23 at the Cathedral in Hartford. As in the past, there will be designated pews for the families. The Pastoral Council meeting scheduled for 4/23 is moved to the previous Sunday, April 16th.

The Peer Minister plant sale, to benefit their trip to Italy, will be held: April 1-2; April 8-9; May 13-14. They will also hold a fundraising Pasta Dinner on April 29.

Lydia Forgettia Sheffield received the The St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford on March 20, 2023. She is a St. George parishioner.

Preparations are being made for the celebration of Holy Week. The hall will be made available for overflow at some Masses to accommodate increased attendance. On Easter, the Church Hall will be available, especially for the 10:30 Mass.

Father advised that there were to be calling hours at St George in advance of an upcoming Funeral Mass. This practice is done at the discretion of the Pastor.

Father advised that the litigation regarding a bequest to Our Lady of Mercy School and its successor school has been resolved after final review of the case by the State Court. The funds will go to ESCA, East Shoreline Catholic Academy, which is the successor school of Our Lady of Mercy.

The ESCA Pasta Dinner on 2/25 was a success. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner and the school raised \$2,000.

**Parish Liaison Update:** Stations of the Cross were held on 3/29 for the children in the CCD program. There have been about 43 parishioners attending the Stations of the Cross. The Men's Group will be conducting a "Food Drive Drop-Off" on 4/22. The Peer Ministers will be fundraising for their trip to Italy by selling Easter plants in front of St. George on April 7, 8, 9 and May 13,14. Peer Ministers will also host a Pasta Dinner in the St George Hall on April 29th.

**Peer Ministry:** The CCD programs have ended for the year. It is expected that turnout for the Peer Ministry Program next year will be quite good based on the success of the Retreats this year. The coat drive organized by the Peer ministers was a success.

**Ministry Booklet:** The booklet is 99% complete. There will be a final review of the information and it will be sent to the printer for a proof. The proof will then be reviewed to be sure there are no errors. An application form for starting a new ministry will also be added to the booklet. There was a discussion about adding the legal disclaimer to the booklet (to discourage scammers using the information). Private contact information for the ministries will be put into a separate printout which will be inserted in the booklet. After discussion, it was decided that the roll out of the booklet shouldn't be rushed even if it has to wait until the Fall.

Since the booklet will not be distributed immediately, the idea of distributing the car magnets which invite people to "Come Home Again" to St George Catholic Church might be shared at the Easter Masses. Father Dillon was open to this idea.

**Other business:** The ice cream social was initially suggested as an end of the school year celebration for parishioners. The council considered opening it up to the community but after a lengthy discussion it was decided to hold the ice cream social after the 10:30 Mass, June 4th, for parishioners and their families, although the community will be welcome.

In addition, we are considering offering water/lemonade prior to the start of the High School Graduation Ceremony, at the Church front lawn, June 16th, as community service/outreach.

Specifics for the programming, "Jesus and Jammies" was not reviewed.

**Adjournment at 6:30 pm** with a closing prayer led by Father Dillon

Next Meeting is April 16.

**Submitted by** Carol McCormick, substitute for Secretary Jody Fay