

Saint George Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2023

Present: Father Dillon, Yolande Eldridge, Jody Fay, Fran Wainer, Debra Falvey, Greer Koerner, Betty Jane Schiller, Sue Croce, Geri Perkins, Nancy Talalas, Sergio Garcia-Perez, Elizabeth Kozarec, Jill Kennelly, Bob Keiser, Bill White & Valerie Campanelli

Absent: Thom Duffy, Youth reps: Izzy Torello; Kennedy Teasdale

The meeting began at 4:30 pm with an opening prayer from Father Dillon. After some minor revisions, the minutes from October 2023 were approved by all.

Yolande: Round robin of introductions by all present. A reminder to council members to send a photo for the website.

Sergio/Youth Ministry representative: The October CCD classes have started, and the first retreat was in October. The "Friends of Willy" pet drive just ended. Religious Education classes are collecting items (toys and gifts) for the DOMAS in Stamford. The Peer Ministers are having a poinsettia sale. The Peer Ministers are also having a sock drive to support Columbus House; a January coat drive; and a book drive in February.

Father Dillon: Religious Education classes are going very well. There were three religious education opening masses and each child had one parent with them, which was wonderful. November 5th mass was celebrated by Archbishop Coyne. Archbishop Blair turns 75 in April and Archbishop Coyne will take over. The mass with Archbishop Coyne was very well attended, and 550 hosts were received. Father Federico will be at Saint George's next week to speak about vocations to the priesthood. There was a childrens' mass last week with the childrens' choir and the Knights hosted a pancake breakfast after the 10:30 AM mass. The Knights will also be having a Christmas Cookie Stroll inside the church hall. Large bars of candy (875) were given out on Halloween within two hours. Sister Kathleen is hosting about 65 people for the Thanksgiving Lunch at 1 pm on Thanksgiving. ESCA is doing very well with 225 students enrolled. The maximum is 230. There will be a spring breakfast at ESCA for three parishes. The Christmas trees and wreaths will be sold as an ESCA fundraiser.

Fran: Parish Council pins have been ordered. The Thanksgiving turkey goal was surpassed. We received 630 and we only needed 625. The extra turkeys will be saved for Christmas Sharing. Abraham's Tent is going to be different this year. Fran attended a meeting, and they wanted everyone to go to Wallingford. The space there is very limited and not big enough for multiple volunteers. This year they are requesting brand new underwear, hats and gloves for men and women. Monetary donations and gift cards are also being requested. This drive will run from mid-January to mid-February. The Christmas Card Contest for youth is complete and the card will go out December 8, 2023 with the Christmas schedule.

Yolande & New business: Deb brought up that February is American Heart Association month and “Go Red for Women” initiatives. Dates to do a dinner fundraiser were discussed and February 24, 2024, was agreed upon. Nancy will look into donated baskets of flowers that we can raffle for fundraising. Deb is going to get a speaker from Yale New Haven Hospital. Bob will approach the new owner of Shoreline Liquors for a wine donation. A sub committee was formed consisting of Deb, Jody, Yolande, Nancy & Betty Jane.

Welcoming ideas from the council were discussed with an “All are Welcome” theme. Nancy suggested a banner. In the past, Eucharistic Ministers would welcome people at the entrances. Father is going to have this reinstated. Fran is going to follow up with our Welcome Ministry.

The APK race was a success. Bob and Helen raised \$2,000. Betty Jane baked 30 dozen cookies for the race and the coffee was donated.

The food pantry has a brand new freezer.

Our Next Meeting is January 28, 2024 at 4:30 pm

Adjournment at 5:35 pm with a closing prayer led by Father.