

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2015

ATTENDEES: Ron Andes, Judy Feador, Sue Haberman, Joe Keys, Brooklynne Elliot, Tricia Marshall, Sam Pingatore, Bob Singerline, David Smee, Carol Wallington, Father Joe Mamich

Excused: Pete Cardello, Rebecca Ciccozzi, Pat Lupica

Guest: Father Anthony

Called to Order: Joe Keys

Joe called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and led the group in a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted. Carol Wallington made the motion, seconded by Judy Feador.

Courage – Follow up from Discussion at August Meeting – Father Anthony

Courage, an apostolate of the Catholic Church, ministers to persons with same-sex attractions and their loved ones, helping them to live chaste lives. The outreach called EnCourage ministers to relatives, spouses and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. The *goals of Courage* are: 1) To live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teachings; 2) To dedicate our entire lives to Christ through service to others; 3) To foster a spirit of fellowship in which we may share with one another our thoughts and experiences; 4) To be mindful of the truth that chaste friendships are not only possible but necessary; 5) To live lives that may serve as good examples to others. The *goals of EnCourage* are: 1) To help members to grow spiritually through developing a vital relationship with Jesus; 2) To enable members to gain a deeper understanding of the needs, problems and issues experienced by people with same-sex attractions; 3) To help members establish and maintain a healthy and wholesome relationship with loved-one; 4) Assist other parents and families not to reject but to reach out with compassion to their loved-one; 5) To witness to our loved one by our own lives that a happy, wholesome life is to be found in union with Jesus. Father Anthony referred to the list of resources included in the documents and commented on the documentary films referred to. The support group meets at Sacred Heart in Wadsworth. Anyone interested in this issue should contact Father Anthony or Father Joe. Father Anthony pointed out that our feelings do not define us and you can love someone but not love their actions.

PPC Annual Retreat – Highlights – Joe Keys

Noting that we must celebrate our achievements, Joe invited comments on the flip chart notes from the retreat. Sharing one powerful moment in ones life might enhance the work of the PPC going forward. Believe in the sacredness of each individual, share the good news of what is happening in each ministry, share our stories that reflect the Spirit of God at work, foster real dialogue that connects us, find ways to use small groups to learn more about people's experiences at our parish, and create deeper interaction with each other.

Approval of changes to PPC Guidelines – Joe Keys

Referring to the proposed changes for this PPC meeting, Joe asked for feedback from PPC members. The first change (on page one – number 3 referring to membership) should be corrected to read "*no more than two members* from Youth Ministry, appointed by Pastor after consultation with, and as recommended by the Youth Minister. The second change (on page 2 referring to PPC members changing the commissions they are assigned to) was accepted as noted.

Commission Reports:

Community Life: Ron Andes reported that the last meeting was held December 1 and commented on the Carpenter events, clambake, Divine Mercy scheduled for April 4, the concert on January 7. Fr. Joe added that he is the "interim chair."

Liturgy: Judy Feador recapped the last two meetings: 1) There is a need for more greeters, perhaps families; 2) Perhaps the Joyfully Gifted program could be scheduled two times a year; 3) The Eucharistic Ministers will continue to leave the sanctuary one at a time; 4) Bottles of hand sanitizers may be more readily available for Eucharistic Ministers. Dan Kilbane agreed to oversee Greeters and Ushers.

Social Concerns: Carol Wallington reported that the ministry fairs were not very effective. When new parishioners are interviewed, it might be a good idea to try to determine what ministry would be best suited to them. Are some ministries failing because of lack of leadership? Leaders need to have a passion for their ministry. There is no consequence if a ministry fails. It was suggested that an insert in the bulletin might explain what each ministry actually does.

Spiritual Life: Bob Singerline commented that the ministry fair led some people into leadership roles.

Stewardship: Tricia Marshall had no report and Rebecca Ciccozzi was not in attendance."

Youth: David Smee had no report, Pete Cardello was not in attendance, while Brooklynne mentioned that Jesus Birthday Party went well and that the Youth Group had an upcoming Christmas Party on December 20.

Review and Discussion of "Tools for Rebuilding" Committee Proposals

After meeting five times in the last year to discuss Tools for Rebuilding, the following suggestions were made: 1) Form a focus group of parishioners and staff to study how we can bring those who are both unchurched and those who have left the parish; Bob Singerline noted that the unchurched are outside of church and suggested that it would be best to start small. He also noted and reminded all that personal invites work best. 2) Help our priests more (Father Joe commented that this is not an issue); 3) Create a baptism/family ministry (Carol Wallington distributed sample letters that might be given to these families. She will follow up on this); 4) Get more young families and young people involved by offering a monthly preschool PSR during mass. Judy suggested offering a tour of the church. Fr. Joe to explore nursery\preschool ministry. 5) Service work with families: Power of 10² was a good start.

Power of 10 Squared Service Day Review:

Father Joe commented that 68 participants volunteered for this project to help with the needs of local Strongsville residents. Next year it is scheduled for October 22, 2016. Perhaps a project like this could include St. John Neumann.

Pastor's Remarks:

As of October 31 of this year, our Offertory collections are \$702 ahead of budget, with maintenance and repair fund collections \$4,586 over budget. Our operating deficit is \$32,184 because of additional parking lot and garage extension expenditures. There has been a bequest of \$85,000. Mass count is down 38 from last year, but there have been 68 deaths. He distributed a document on the Formed.org website. Sometime early next year, the front door under the bell tower and the door under the rear canopy will be converted to automatic doors. .

Closing Prayer:

Joe Keys led the group in closing prayer and adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be February 8th.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Piatak