

St. Mary's Pastoral Council

St. Mary's Office Building

Agenda /NOTES

4 January, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Chairwoman, Bev Tolle

Moment of silence to reflect on the Presence of the Lord:

Opening Prayer: All, led by Sue Blum

Roll Call: Secretary:

Present:, Robert Fyffe, Bev Tolle, Mike Benson, Diane Neal, Don Gatchell, Joy Maxwell, Mark Unger, Ray Martin, Sue Blum, Laura Corcoran, Dave Lanning, Katie Boesch, Karen Leeth, Jen Slater

Absent: Dennis Alberta, Marilyn Evans, Dianne Morgan, Father Hummer, Rachel Corcoran,

Recognition of Visitors: Chrissy Kessler

Spiritual Reading, Reflection, and Faith Sharing: Sue Blum shared a few verses from the beginning of the book of Luke, chapter 8, which she often reflects on in her daily prayer. This particular set of verses is about the women who supported Jesus and the apostles as they traveled from village to village, spreading the Good News about God's Kingdom. The group discussed how this spiritual reading reflects our need to provide service and support others who are sharing the gospel. Teaching our children to do service, even in the smallest ways has big rewards.

Reading of the Pastoral Council Constitution: Joy Maxwell read Article V; **Article VI** will be read at the February meeting.

Approval of the Minutes: Approved.

Chairman's Remarks: None

Committee Reports:

Spiritual Life - Katie Boesch

Reminder of the upcoming dates: First Eucharist meeting will be held for parents January 22 at noon. The Angel Tree and Jaycee Special Santa projects were a great success. Thank you to all who purchased gifts and made a child's life merrier.

Education –Laura Cororan

Thank you to all who have given so generously to our school over the last year, especially those who responded to our "Christmas Wish List"! We have already received funding for several of the items that we "wished" for and we thank you all so much!

The current enrollment stands at 199 students in preschool through 8th grade. This is our largest enrollment since 2004! We are so proud of the growth of our school community, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our parishes for their support through some very tough times. Here's to another 12 years of positive growth!!!

At the end of this month, Bishop Flaget will be applying for a STEM designation from the state of Ohio. This is the first year that elementary schools will be eligible to receive this special designation. We are very excited about this opportunity and believe that we have a very strong application. The great thing for Bishop Flaget is that we have been a STEM school all along. We have a strong emphasis on the STEM subjects, utilize a rigorous curriculum, incorporate student-centered and intercurricular learning, embrace technology and innovation, celebrate diversity and cooperation, involve our families and the community, and have a strong, dedicated staff. In addition, we base all that we do on a strong Catholic foundation. We provide excellent opportunities in the arts as well as a broad range of extra-curricular opportunities. With the tuition assistance from our parishes, the EdChoice and Peterson

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Scholarships, and our fundraising efforts, we have created an opportunity that no child in Ross County should miss.

Our basketball teams are in the midst of their season, playing against New Hope Christian Academy, Hillsboro Christian Academy, Pike Christian Academy, and Holy Trinity Catholic School in Somerset. We are proud of our girls and boys teams, coached by Coach Mike Hirsch and Coach Bob Fyffe, respectively. Dr. Joe Spaulding is also helping out with our basketball program, and Dr. Brandy Spaulding is our athletic director.

The Mardi Gras Reverse Raffle will be held on Saturday, February 25th. Tickets will be on sale soon. Tickets are \$40, and each ticket is good for one entry into the raffle. Only 500 tickets will be sold. You do not need to be present to win. Grand prize is \$2500. The raffle evening will begin at 6PM with a cash bar and complimentary appetizers. There will be a silent auction, 50/50 drawings, and many opportunities for fun.

Bishop Flaget will continue to sell gift cards at coffee and donuts each month. Bishop Flaget is able to purchase these gift cards at a discount and sell them to you at face value. That is how we are able to make money on this fundraiser. We keep the cards in the school office, so if you need anything, feel free to pop up to the office. If you need a large number of cards, please call the office and we can do special orders. We can get gift cards for just about every chain business in town. Call the school and ask for Becky for more information.

Catholic Schools Week will be Jan.29-Feb. 4, 2017. The spaghetti dinner will be held January 31st and the all school Mass will be held Feb.3rd at 9:30am. We will present the Distinguished Alumni Award after the All School Mass. If you have nominations for the Distinguished Alumni Award, please email Mrs. Corcoran at lcorcora@cdrducation.org or call the school at 740-774-2970.

Also, we have yearbooks from the 2014-15 school year available in the office for \$40.

Social Concerns - Dave Lanning reviewed the stats for December. There were 87 visits with a total of \$2360.90 distributed. The largest dollar amounts went to food and utilities respectively.

Family Life & Lazarus Committee - Karen Leeth

Mark your calendars: Mother/Daughter Luncheon will be held on January 28th. The luncheon will start at 11:30 in the FLC. The theme this year is "The Gift of Simplicity". It's a girl's day out!!! Please bring your, daughter, mother, grandmother, aunt, or a friend! Bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be no Coffee and donuts during the month of January due to the other events going on in the parish. Next Coffee and donuts will be on Feb. 19th

Our committee would love for you to consider getting involved with our group but most importantly serve God, find fellowship and meet the needs of our parish. Please contact Karen Leeth at 703-8582 or leethfamily@roadrunner.com to get involved.

Lazarus Committee

If you are interested in helping the Lazarus committee or just provide meals for these luncheons please contact Pat Reed at 773-4547 or church office. Food is always welcome

Finance Council – No report

Deanery Report: No report

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Knights of Columbus –Robert Fyffe reported that the Knights will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day dinner in the Family Life Center on March 18th, after 5:00 Mass. They have also purchased a trophy case for Bishop Flaget School, which will be installed. The Knights also have additional money that was raised for the "Helping Hands".

Pastors Report – Father Hummer

No Report

Old Business:

Senior Citizen Assistance Program: No report

150 Year Anniversary of the Church: Karen Leeth

The calendar has been posted with all the events that will take place this year. We will kick off the celebration on Sunday, January 8th with a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast after each of the mass times. February will be one of our History months. If you have any pieces of history you would like to share please contact Joan D'Antoni.

Please join us the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 in the Parish office. We welcome everyone to get involved, this is YOUR church so, WE NEED your ideas. Next scheduled meeting is November 21st at 6:30pm. We will also have T-shirts for sale representing our celebration. Please watch the bulletin for details.

Letter to the Bishop: Chrissy Kessler presented the need to proceed with getting signatures on the letter to the Bishop that was distributed in November. She felt it important not to let it linger, though Father Hummer will be staying on with us for another year. She and others feel strongly that this will begin the process through which we can communicate our wishes as a parish. There was a short discussion on the matter and the back page of the letter was passed around for signatures.

New Business:

Katie Boesch talked about the Health Ministry. Surveys were in the bulletin a several weeks ago but, only 2 responses were received. She recommended that the idea be shelved until the need arises for health topics as a class. In the meantime, "care notes" on health topics have been ordered and will be placed in the back of the church for anyone who is interested.

Correspondence: Father Hummer sent a thank you card to the members of the Pastoral Council for the gift received at the Advent Party.

Secret Collection for St. Vincent de Paul:

Moment of silence:

Closing Prayer: Liturgy of the Hours Night Prayer

Next meeting: February 1, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

Pastoral Council Prayer Schedule: February: Rachel Corcoran, March: Dave Lanning, April: Jen Slater, May: Joy Maxwell