

St Pius X Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes- March 24, 2014

Meeting Time: 7:30 pm

Present: Fr. George, Fr. Jason, Rosemary Akin, Karen Boucher, Anne Dailey, Matt MacKechnie, Julie French, Steve Sozanski, Jean Kelly, Maureen Bach

Opening prayer led by Karen Boucher.

Minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting were accepted.

Old Business:

Parish Website update-

Steve has been adding this to the website homepage in particular, the Lenten activities for the parish. Julie noted that the bereavement booklet is in a PDF format that could be put on the website. She will ask Neil Dillon to assist her in the best placement of this booklet on the website.

Steve has also been updating the Facebook page with the parish Lenten activities. Rosemary has also been putting various updates on the Facebook page.

Fr. George suggested that the old PPC meeting minutes be taken off the website and start fresh with the newest minutes. Julie will update the website with the current minutes when they are submitted to her at the rectory.

Anniversary Committee:

Jean met with Fr. George recently to go over the events for the anniversary.

There will be an anniversary Mass celebrated on the tentative date of Sunday June 22, 2014, with a picnic following Mass on the parish grounds.

The committee is looking into having Frank Runyan here in the summer for an evening event. He was at our parish about 15 years ago, and has a one- man dramatic presentation.

They will be ordering the "Cat's Meows" that depict the altar at Christmas. These will be sold throughout the year. The 100th anniversary of the canonization of Pope Pius X

is this summer. At the feast day in August we will have a presentation of his life and ministries.

There will be a Fine Arts Show show in May at St Pius X School with performances by the band and the chorus. Steve noted that HAC (Housing Assistance Cooperation) in Yarmouth will be having "The Big Fix" this year for one day on September 29th. This is an opportunity to volunteer your time to go in and help the elderly or disabled with various projects that need to be done in their homes. Supplies are donated, and people of any age can help. See Steve for more information.

Diocesan PPC:

Diane Morris, a member of the Diocesan PPC and a member of our parish, will be coming to our April meeting. She can talk about what issues the Diocesan PPC discuss and also give us an understanding of their viewpoint on the book Rebuilt.

New Business:

“Rebuilt, The Story of a Catholic Parish”: Reading this book was meant to be informative and give ideas to finding a way forward in the midst of problems. Fr. George started the discussion of the book by explaining a key point that primarily churches have become commercialized. Jean commented that she was amazed how a parish could be that bad. Julie noticed that the parish did so much for their members, but it had such little impact. The book looks at ways to find what is good in a parish first, and to not just go in and change everything. Everyone agreed that we do live in a very commercial time with unique challenges. We all liked that we have the benefit of their process. Anne noted that many of us probably know people like the parishioners in that parish, who will go somewhere else if they are not getting something they want, instead of offering help.

Matt was curious how they were able to have so many parishioners in the end? Julie mentioned that we all need to think about whom our target groups are. Rosemary pointed out how important giving to the church is financially. How do we get parishioners to want to contribute more to the parish? It is an issue for all parishes. Julie and Fr. George discussed how our renovation has greatly impacted our parish in a very positive way. The atmosphere in the church is warmer (not temperature) and more welcoming!

Fr. George also commented on how spoiled we are in our parish, with our music program. When he visits other places, it is clear how nice our program is!

Why was this book chosen? Per Fr. George, it was first brought to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, then to the Priest’s council, then recommended for Parish Pastoral Councils to read and discuss. Julie asked Fr. George what direction does he see us going in with these new ideas? Fr. George saw this book as a good jumping off point. We need to appreciate the gifts we have and to move forward with new ideas and things we can do to improve our parish. As a Parish Pastoral Council, we should revisit our goals and objectives. Fr. George asked the council to please finish reading Part III and bring any questions or ideas to the next meeting.

Goals & Objectives Revisited:

The 2010- 2011 Goals & Objectives and the Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life handouts were given out and information on what has been done to this point and what could be done in the future were included. Everyone was asked to look these over and think about some ideas of what we could accomplish in the parish.

Steve suggested that the parish could get involved in a Habitat for Humanity parish build. The idea would be to complete one house ourselves as a parish or together with another parish as a community build. In 2002 our parish joined with other parishes to complete a home for Habitat. Steve will bring more information on a Habitat for Humanity build to our next meeting.

Other New Business:

- Fr. Chuck Connolly will not be coming back to help us this year because of some health issues.
- Fr. Winchester will be coming back.
- Fr. Dubois, a retired priest from Albany who is now in Brewster, has offered to help us this year.
- Fr. Pratt and Fr. Remillard will be back soon.
- Msgr. Smith’s alzheimers is progressing. He is living at Catholic Memorial.

- Bishop Irwin had knee replacement surgery, is in rehab and is doing well and in good spirits.

Our next meeting is Monday, April 28th at 7:30pm. Fr. Jason will open with prayer, Rosemary will take the minutes, and Matt will do the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bach