

St. Eugene Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Attendees: Rev. George Koeune, Kathleen Kon, Maria Russo, Dan Bowery, Carolyn Edwards, Betty Urbaszewski-Gebhardt, Rita Kopf, Tony Mion, Jim Schmitt, Sal Sparacino, Terri Swiderski, and Pat Wagner.

Absent: Erica Dillon

Father George opened the meeting at 7:00pm with a prayer.

Open Forum: None

Approval of Minutes: Carolyn Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2015 meeting, as distributed, and motion was seconded by Tony Mion.

Pastor's Report by Father George:

- Christmas gifts for all volunteers are to be picked up in the sacristy. Theme for this year is "Serving in Christ's Light" and the gift has a light on it.
- Archbishop Cupich is worried about the year 2030 and that there will be several hundred priests less in the diocese due to age, retirement, and size of ordination classes. His plan is to have a central rectory for an area, with several associate pastors, but one pastor for the parishes involved. All would reside at the central rectory and cover several churches/schools, as assigned in the area. This is the model that he is proposing for the future. Plan is not complete and more information will be forthcoming, including announcements of parish closings.

Commission Report – Parish Life

- Maria Russo reported that there are 59 people signed up for the A&R Christmas Party so far.
- The Christmas Trolley will be held on Friday, December 4, 2015, and will be going to Lincoln Park to see the Zoo lights. Lois is still getting a lot of requests -- two trolleys are filled and we cannot get a third unless someone cancels.
- Tony Mion reported that the Knights of Columbus Trivia Night was very successful and raised almost \$3,000 for the Sisters. Ran a bit longer than anticipated but everyone had a good time.

Commission Report – Education: Jim Schmitt

Jim Schmitt reported that he is putting a lot of effort into promoting the FORMED.org program. A lot of new content has just been added and Terri Swiderski reported that calls have come in looking for information.

Commission Report – Spiritual Life: Carolyn Edwards

- There is a bit of a problem with Eucharistic Ministers not showing up at their scheduled Masses and not arranging for someone to take their place. All Masses are being affected. Father George suggested that a letter be sent out “with a gentle push” informing everyone of this problem and requesting their help.
- We also need another tutorial for parishioners on how to receive Communion. Many come up and do not respond with the “Amen.” Also, some do not give any indication whether the host should be put in the hand or mouth. Most do not know that they should bow prior to receiving the host.

Commission Report – Human Concerns: Terri Swiderski

Pro-Life Committee found out that the Albany Clinic is closed, and this is announced in the bulletin. It’s wonderful to note that our prayers are being answered.

Old Business:

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Welcome Mass on November 8, 2015.

New Business:

- Pastoral Council will light the Advent Wreath at the 5:30pm Mass on Saturday, November 28, 2015.
- No Summer Fest in 2016. In 2017, the country that we will be honoring is Luxembourg.
- Carolyn Edwards gave information and requested ideas regarding the refugee crisis and the fact that perhaps St. Eugene can host a refugee “family” with the backing of the Pastoral Council. This would be handled through Catholic Charities, with help from donations.
- Election of Officers was held. Carolyn Edwards was nominated as Chairperson and accepted the nomination. Maria Russo was nominated as Vice-Chair, and she accepted. Rita Kopf was nominated as Secretary, and she accepted. Elections were unanimous. Kathleen Kon was thanked for her two-year contributions as Chairperson.

Next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 7:00pm, in Room 110.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Rita Kopf, PPC Secretary