

Our Lady of the Valley Parish

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2016

Present: Fr. Doug, Tom Gallivan, Billy Labrie, Joan Marek, Tom Neill, Jay Oelrich, and George Zoltowski.

Absent: Karen Droy and, Peg Graham.

The meeting was opened at 6:35 pm by Chairman Tom Neill.

Father Doug led us in the opening prayer.

Minutes of the September 28th were accepted with modifications to item #11 in the Pastor's Report – delete words “bingo and/or”; Item #1 in Technology – insert word “about” before \$700.00; and Change word “if” to “of” inline 1 of item #1 in New Business.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Doug

1. The interior painting project has been approved by the Bishop.
2. The altar dedication went well, with a nice reception following, sponsored by the K of C.
3. The Cot Shelter has met with some snags in providing transportation from Northampton and chaperones to stay overnight with the guests. Hopefully, this will be ironed out before the start of the shelter season. More info is in the cot shelter report under Outreach.
4. The Christmas lottery ticket tree decorating party was well attended and went well.
5. Our pastor has a new hobby – baking bread. Can we look forward to some at the next meeting?

Finance Report - Fr. Doug

1. The Finance Council meets next on November 6th.
2. We are still operating at a deficit with regard to the operating budget and collections.
3. Four of the ceiling medallions have been sponsored for restoration.

Committee Reports:

Communications: - Jay

1. The altar dedication video is up on the web site.
2. Jay introduced us to and talked about the movie “The Face of Mercy”, a 1-hr. movie being shown on ABC affiliates. It has not been picked up locally by ABC Springfield channel 40.

Outreach: - Joan

Mission Committee:

1. The Holiday Craft Fair was a success, generating just over \$1,000.00 for the general fund. Sold quite a few lottery tree raffle tickets at the craft fair.
2. Sister parish Blessed Sacrament/All Souls is facing major capital expenses for building repair to the tune of \$40,000.00.
3. Recently sent a check for \$5,000.00 to Msgr. Juan to help with fuel expenses.
4. There are plans to begin discussion on the financial support that is provided to sister parishes with the thought of adding Fr. Adolf's parish into the mix.
5. We will be going to Blessed Sacrament/All Souls this Advent season.
6. They currently have 200 children in their CCD program.

Take & Eat:

1. Unable to begin the community fund raising efforts planned to send a letter out seeking business donations. Hope to get started on that soon.
2. The first week crew lost two cooks and is seeking replacements.
3. Ministry is doing robustly, currently serving 72 clients twice monthly.

Cot Shelter:

1. A lengthy report was submitted by chairman, Mike Biegner outlining the problems incurred by Soldier-On's decision not to participate with the Interfaith Cot Shelter Annex. Actively pursuing other options to provide drivers and chaperones or closing down the Easthampton Annex and moving it to Northampton.

Clubs & Events:

Women's Club:

1. Held their second meeting on Monday, October 24 at which they prepared holiday cards for nursing home residents and homebound.
2. They will be selling wreath raffle tickets on the weekends of 11/5-6 and 11/12-13.
3. On the weekend of November 19-20 they will have a bake sale and will hold the drawing for the wreaths.
4. Will host a reception following the Mass of Remembrance in November.
5. They will host the reception after the Thanksgiving Day Mass on 11/24.
6. Will offer free gift wrapping before Christmas in the hall after Masses again this year.

Knights of Columbus:

1. The annual Tootsie Roll drive on 10/8 – 9 raised \$2,000.00, mostly from selling at the intersection of Main and Union Streets and at Big E's supermarket on the morning of 10/8.
2. Hosted the reception following the 11:00 Mass on Sunday 10/16 at which Bishop Rozanski dedicated our new altar.
3. The annual holiday Citrus Sale has begun. Orders will be taken through 11/16, with delivery expected around December 11th.

4. Production of pierogi for the holiday sales will begin in November 4th for 2 weekends. Sales are slated to begin the first weekend in December.

Holy Rosary Sodality:

The annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 4th at the Bluebonnet in Northampton. All are welcome and tickets are on sale now.

Religious Education:

1. Religious Education classes for the morning and evening are going very smoothly.
2. Grade K – 8 have 180 students registered, with another 63 in grades 9 and 10.
3. Christine Carpenter, grade K and Laurie Lamothe, grade 2 were nominated to receive the St. Pius X Award on Thursday, November 3 at Mary, Mother of Hope Parish in Springfield. Laurie will be away, so she will receive her award at a later date at OLV.
4. Fr. Gerry Dailey will speak to the high school students on Sunday, 11/6.

Youth Group: Billy

1. The Venture Crew group had a good camping weekend.
2. Held a joint REY/Venture Crew mini-retreat.

Music: - George

1. The St. Cecelia Choir sang at the Pulaski Day ceremony in Easthampton on Sunday, October 9 at the monument in Pulaski Park (rotary).
2. St. Cecelia Choir sang at the Bishop's Mass at 10:00 AM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on Monday, October 10 and some members marched in the Northampton Pulaski Day parade following the Mass.
3. Cathy Brooks of the Family Choir reported that the sustain pedal on the piano needs to be fixed as it does not always work.

Technology: - Fr. Doug

1. Nothing new to report.

Liturgy: -

1. Nothing to report

Old Business:

1. No old business.

New Business:

1. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday we are cancelling the November meeting and combining it with the December meeting which will be held on Wednesday, December 14th due to the Christmas holiday.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM after the closing prayer.