

St. Eugene Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2015

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

Absent: Dan Bowery

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

Open Forum: Chick O'Leary provided the Council with information concerning the erection of the cell tower in the church parking lot. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the layout of the tower and the risks to adjoining neighbors and school children. Further information will be obtained and shared with the Council.

Also presented by Chick was information on the program FORMED.org in which St. Eugene Parish is now a participant. Lighthouse Media has rolled out an internet-based program which has all the audios from Lighthouse Media, as well as various other enrichment programs, movies, etc. The cost of this program would be \$140/month for the parish and would be available for all parishioners to subscribe by merely calling the rectory and obtaining the parish access code for St. Eugene, after which they would be able to go online and create an account individually for approximately \$10/month. Hopefully, reports would be available showing parishioner participation. The Parish Council approved our participation and support of this adult enrichment program.

Approval of Minutes: Pat Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2015 meeting, as distributed, and motion was seconded by Jim Schmitt.

New Members: Three new members to the PPC were introduced – James Schmitt, Sal Sparacino, and Betty Urbaszewski-Gebhardt.

Pastor's Report by Father George:

- Father John Hetland is the new priest assigned to St. Eugene Parish.
- We have received three bids for the church bathroom project.
- Bereavement signs on the church should be replaced because they are totally weathered out. Ideas would be welcomed for what to put on the signs.
- Animal blessing will be held at 4:00pm on Monday, October 5, 2015, outside of church.
- Fall speakers will include Sister Belinda Monahan, an archaeologist, who will speak on ancient peoples and cultures and their contact with God (October 14, 2015); and Mike Aquilina who will speak on "Quest for the Grail" (October 21, 2015).

Commission Report – Education Commission: Erica Dillon

- New principal and new playground.
- Printable calendar on new school website.
- Dairy Queen fund-raiser.
- Yankee Candle sale.
- 5k on Saturday, October 17, 2015. Volunteers needed.
- Per Father George – new robotics program for the older grades.

Commission Report – Spiritual Life Commission: Terri Swiderski

- New Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors needed.
- Decorating Committee needs new members.
- 40 Days to Life – Albany Medical Center at Elston and Cicero -- Wednesday, September 30, 2015 – St. Eugene is combining with Immaculate Conception, Our Lady Mother of the Church, and St. Monica. The times we are assigned are 2:00am, 6:00am, 10:00am, and 2:00pm, 6:00pm, and 10:00pm.
- New ministry being formed – Consolation Ministry – information shared by Jim Schmitt.

Commission Report – Parish Life: Tony Mion

- Filipino-American Barn Dance on Saturday, September 26, 2015.
- Fannie Mae candy bars will be sold once again by the Knights of Columbus on October 3-4, 2015.
- A&R Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, October 10, 2015.
- St. Vincent DePaul Society's Fall clothing drive will be weekend of October 17-18, 2015.
- Priesthood Sunday is October 25, 2015. Knights of Columbus will be honoring our priests at the 11:30am Mass and a cash award will be presented to our new adopted seminarian.
- Knights of Columbus will be holding a Trivia Night on Saturday, November 7, 2015, in the Shaunessy Center, in support of our Verbum Dei Missionary Sisters who are planning on going to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland, in July 2016. All proceeds from this event will go directly to the Sisters to help defray the costs of this trip. Jim Schmitt shared more details regarding the Trivia Night – hoping to make this an annual event.

Selection of Commissions:

- Human Concerns: Betty Urbaszewski-Gebhardt, Rita Kopf, and Terri Swiderski
- Education: Erica Dillon, Tony Mion, and Jim Schmitt
- Spiritual Life: Dan Bowery, Carolyn Edwards, and Kathleen Kon
- Parish Life: Maria Russo, Sal Sparacino, and Pat Wagner

Old Business:

- May 24, 2015 Blood Drive – we had ten donors.
- Shroud of Turin Exhibit, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, and held on August 7, 8, and 9, 2015, was an amazing success with 3,000-4,000 visitors during these three days, with 59 parishes being represented. Donations amounted to \$2,700 which went to the Franciscan Friars who are the curators and custodians of the exhibit.
- Welcome reception for Father John Hetland was held on Sunday, September 13, 2015, after the 11:30am Mass. This was hosted by the Altar & Rosary Society, and Father John was really happy with all who welcomed him.

New Business:

- Retirement Mass for Dr. Jim Bergman will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2015, at 11:30am. Reception will follow in the Shaunessy Center with food from Incredible Edibles. If Council members could bring desserts, that would be greatly appreciated. Please help out where needed.
- Reception for new Director of Music Lydia Hilado will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2015, after the 11:30am Mass. This will be hosted by the Parish Council and since Kathleen cannot be there that day, Carolyn Edwards and Rita Kopf offered to co-chair the reception with the help of the Council members. Sweets would be greatly appreciated.
- Adult Education Series—Sister Belinda Monahan will speak on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 7:00pm, and Mike Aquilina will speak on Wednesday, October 21, 2015. Refreshments will be served in the vestibule following each of these lectures and will be hosted by the Parish Council.
- Welcome Mass will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2015, at the 9:30am Mass, with refreshments following in the vestibule. Members of the Council are once again asked to attend and assist with the refreshments.

Next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, at 7:00pm, in Room 110.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Rita Kopf, PPC Secretary