

St. Eugene Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Attendees: Rev. George Koeune, Kathleen Kon, Maria Russo, Dan Bowery, Erica Dillon, Carolyn Edwards, Rita Kopf, Tony Mion, Terri Swiderski, Millisa Vasich, Pat Wagner

Absent: Maria Salvador

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

Open Forum: None

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Carolyn Edwards to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2014 meeting, as distributed. Motion was seconded by Erica Dillon.

Pastor's Report by Father George:

- Parish Mission to be shared with St. Thecla on March 16, 17, and 18, 2015. Terri Swiderski will check with the Deacon at St. Thecla about our contributing to their hospitality table. There is a conflict of March 18 with our St. Joseph's Mass.
- A special thanks for PPC's participation in the Ministry Party. Everything was great and everyone had a good time.
- St. Eugene's web page is up and running and looks great. Kathleen Kon said that Chick O'Leary would be more than happy to work with anyone from the Pastoral Council who may be interested in posting contents to the web page. -- Maria Salvador had expressed interest to Kathleen and Rita Kopf had offered her help to Terri Swiderski. There would be the possibility of including the Pastoral Council minutes somewhere on the web page after they had been approved. Discussion was held, and a suggestion was made to post the Agenda for the PPC meeting in case anyone would be interested in expressing their views at the Open Forum.
- We're still waiting for drawings from the bathroom architect.
- Meeting with playground people was moved to April. There's no rush for this as this will be a warm weather project.
- No news on the cell tower – they're still talking with the diocese so we have to wait.
- Father George talked with Terri Swiderski and they will talk with the Liturgy Board about our next mission. Theme would be "Life Matters," to focus not only on abortion and pro-life matters, but also end of life issues. Parish Council agreed on the topic of "Life Matters" and this would be for our mission in 2016.

- Confirmation was made by Father George that St. Eugene is not one of the schools considered for consolidation, as recently being rumored. St. Eugene is healthy, we have an endowment, and our enrollment is nice. We are not a part of this consolidation, so please help in cutting off any rumors to this regard.

Commission Report – Parish Life: Tony Mion

- Starting back in December, the St. Vincent DePaul Society organized, collected and distributed Christmas toys and gifts for 399 children at Our Lady of Mercy Parish.
- Just prior to Christmas week, the St. Vincent DePaul Society delivered 55 Christmas poinsettias to the sick and homebound in the Parish.
- During Christmas week, the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent DePaul Society provided Christmas hams (dinners) for 33 needy families in the community.
- Winners of the “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest that the Knights of Columbus sponsored in the school were on display in the church vestibule and stayed there throughout the Christmas season.
- St. Vincent DePaul Society and Knights of Columbus distributed the hats and mittens which were collected on the “mitten tree” in church.
- Knights of Columbus, along with the Verbum Dei Sisters and all other parish ministries held the Pro-Life Living Rosary last Thursday, January 22, 2015, to coincide with the March for Life.
- The Knights of Columbus will host the district level of the basketball free throw championship here in the Shaunessy Center on February 7, 2015. Preliminary level was held here on December 6, 2014, and St. Eugene did very well.
- Knights of Columbus will host the Lenten Fish Fry here at St. Eugene’s on February 20, February 27, and March 6. The profits from these fish fries will be donated to the school for purchase of the playground equipment.
- Currently, the Knights of Columbus have two programs ongoing at St. Eugene School – the substance abuse poster contest and an essay contest for the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, both due in March.

Commission Report – Human Concerns: Dr. Carolyn Edwards

Pro-Life Committee -- Only thing new is the baby bottle collection held during Lent. This generally brings in \$8,000-9,000.

Commission Report – Education Commission: Erica Dillon

- Father of several school-aged children passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Children are in 3rd and 1st grades, with twin 3-year olds. Please keep Joseph Golden family in your thoughts and prayers.
- All the 8th graders, except for five who live in suburban districts, took the entrance exams for Catholic high schools.

- Several members of faculty and students participated in the Living Rosary.
- Several school families – 15 – have offered to launder the robes of the altar servers and schedules have been distributed so everyone knows when it is his/her turn. This project is being coordinated by Assistant Principal, Janet Kusinski.
- Fifth graders started their training for altar serving this week.
- All 8th graders scored average or above average on their “Aspire” tests.
- Little Vikings Program (18 months to 3 years old) started its second session – there are no openings at present.
- Erica gave a rundown on the activities being held during Catholic Schools Week – “Faith, Knowledge, and Service” is the theme for this year.
- Alumni Weekend will be held February 13-15, 2015. Proceeds from the events held this weekend have provided two scholarships each year to two graduating seniors, based on essays written telling what they have accomplished throughout four years of high school and what they hope to study in college.
- In conjunction with the Office of Catholic Schools, School Advisory Committee, Erica has been working with them on obtaining a tax credit for attending “quality” schools. Called the “Quality Schools Tax Credit Legislation.” it would benefit public, private, and charter schools. Erica provided us with a lot of information regarding this collaboration and will keep us posted on what happens going forward. Father George indicated that it would be desirable for the state to incorporate a “voucher” system. Catholic and private schools save the state hundreds of millions of education money and we should get something in return for this. Erica reiterated that this is just a start, a foot in the door, in getting this situation recognized. Principals have received all this information to share with their staffs.
- April 25, 2015 – Spring Fling fundraiser – country-western theme. Planning meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2015.
- Janet Kusinski sent over a draft of the Mission Statement and asked that we take a look at it. Father George indicated he would like to make one addition: “Saint Eugene School is dedicated to maintaining spiritual and educational excellence and ...”

Commission Report – Spiritual Life Commission: Terri Swiderski

- Received a call that one of the ladies who is responsible for washing the albs is no longer able to do this because of a rotator cuff problem. She will check with Altar and Rosary to see if anyone would be willing to take her spot.
- Altar & Rosary is sponsoring a diaper drive this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, and on Tuesday, asking for donation of a package of diapers, sizes 1, 4, and 6, as well as baby hygiene products. A box is in the vestibule for this purpose.

Old Business:

- Christmas card sales gave us a profit of over \$400. Thanks to all who helped to sell these cards. We have 23-24 individual boxes left.
- Blood drive on January 4, 2015, had 15 donors.
- Margaret Kovacic's program, "7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free" – Margaret stated that she is putting some material together to get to us at the next Open Forum. The material is not really about financial "planning" but is about financial "management" and financial commitment to the church.

New Business:

- Parish Council group Mass – 9:30am on Sunday, March 22, 2015.
- Welcome Mass will be on Sunday, March 8, 2015, at 9:30am.
- Pictures and bio's are needed from PPC members for inclusion in "The Voice." These may also be included on the Parish website.
- Terri Swiderski will check with the Deacon at St. Thecla regarding our hospitality contribution for the Mission.
- St. Joseph's Table is Saturday, March 21, 2015, from 3:30pm to 7:30pm, and Mass will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 7:00pm.

Father George closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Rita Kopf, PPC Secretary