**Epiphany of the Lord Parish**

**Pastoral Council Minutes**

**October 11, 2021**

**Present:** Fr. Jeff Lucas, Angela Bisbee, Paulette Widmann, Deacon Ed Horneman, Hope Fiely, Alex Hilton, Mary Burkett, Ann Nelson, Linda Patton, Mike Kloecker, Amy Mosbacher

**Excused:**  Sergio Cortés, Jesse Sipos, Sue Kelly

**Welcome:** Paulette Widmann at 6:00 pm

**Opening Prayer:** The Angelus led by Fr. Lucas at 6:00 pm

**Minutes:** minutes of September 13, 2021 approved

**Old Business:**

**UPDATES**

**Adult Formation:**  (Amy Mosbacher)

• A whole week of small group sessions have been completed. There are thirty-one participants (not including leaders) divided into four groups. Many positive comments have been received.

• Five people have signed up and are attending *Catholics Returning Home.* This program helps participants return to active faith and parish participation.

• Amy has been meeting with various parents of religious ed. students in the library area of St. Brigid for conversation and education during religious ed. hours. These encounters have been very helpful and positive.

• Forty Hours will be held November 7-9 with Fr. Nick Rouch.

**Seton School:** (Christine Hess through Fr. Lucas)

• The school year is progressing very well. Midterms reports have gone home. Seton has 150 students enrolled this year which is twenty-five more than last year.

• There has been some exposure to covid this year, as happened last year as well. Students will work from home with Chromebooks as needed.

• The Halloween Parade will be Thursday, October 28 at 1:00 pm. Hopefully the Thanksgiving Feast will be held this year. A decision will be made early in November.

• Thanks go out for all the prayers for the school.

**Religious Education:** (Sergio Cortés through Fr. Lucas)

• Seton students, grades 2 and 3 will have their retreat this Thursday. Grades 6, 7, and 8 will be in December and the Elementary retreat is next Saturday.

• The high school Youth Group will meet next week for the second time. Three students were present for the first get-together and the group had a great time. There’s still a lot of room for growth. Sergio will be spending time with the Faith Formation classes in order to get to know the students.

• Faith Formation is well on its way and into a successful routine. This year they have started a program for parents who wish to stay during the religious ed. hour to sit together and discuss building up faith and community with Amy. As many as ten different families have stayed on, with an average of five to six parents per Sunday and the feedback has been very positive.

• A few of the new projects are in the works. Frames are being put up on the second floor to tie in with the Saints that the classes are studying, and also a chalkboard wall will be utilized for the middle and high school classes.

**Pastoral Planning Task Force:** (Fr. Lucas)

• Fr. Lucas is now assigned as pastor of two other parishes: Our Lady of Lourdes in Cochranton and St. Hippolyte in Guys Mills. Fr. Petrone will continue to help with Masses at each church.

• A properties committee has been meeting to discuss and to tour the various facilities. Their focus is on the centers and rectories and how each of their distinct features fit with the needs of the parish. They will submit a report to the broad properties committee and their findings will be on the parish website.

• Questions arose about selling any properties and if diocesan permission is needed. The first step is to review the committee recommendations, and the next step is to have appraisals in place. No decisions can be made without the appraisals. A cumulative argument for the use and/or sale of property will go to the diocese.

• Another question arose about addressing rumors regarding the selling of property. Some members propose that a verbal explanation of the steps involved will help abate rumors and ease anxiousness. Along with this, the report will be in the bulletin and on the website.

• Because the parish is a new entity, it must petition to be tax-exempt. The petition is being prepared and the lawyer will appear before the judge on the 21st. The facilities are multi-purpose and no fee is charged for their use. Mike asked if people are permitted to park in our parking lots when they’re not being used for Mass. Fr. said some individuals who register with the parish can park in our lots. Alternatively, the bank allows parishioners to park in their lot for certain Masses.

**Security Plan:** (Mary Burkett)

• The security team met and drafted a plan based off a sample from another parish. Sue will work up the final draft.

• Jesse will do the facility instructions for emergency situations, which will include information on such things as the smoke alarms, valve shut-offs, etc.

• Mary will work on areas of the plan involving weather emergencies, (i.e., tornado warnings, etc.) as related to events at the parish and religious ed.

**Music Ministry Plan:** (Fr. Lucas)

• Jesse has taken the necessary pictures and measurements and will submit these to the contractors for the music corner.

**Blue Tooth Technology**: (Mike Kloecker)

• Mike is investigating various ways to assist those in need of hearing enhancements. Preliminary ideas include hearing aids for parishioners, speakers in certain pews, wireless/Bluetooth capabilities, and recording homilies to be posted on the website.

**Fr. Joe’s Report:** (through Fr. Lucas)

• Forty Hours will be November 7-9. Adoration will begin on the 7th after the 11:30 am Mass. The presenter will be Fr. Nick Rouch each night beginning at 7:00.

• St. George Parish will hold a Murder Mystery Halloween Party on October 29 from 6:00-10:00 pm. Signs ups need to be in before October 26.

• New altar linens will be updated. Different fabrics are being explored. The cotton/linen ones are higher priced but do a much better job and are more absorbent than the other types.

• Conrad Schmitt studios have been contacted for help with our design updates to the music area. They are looking at pictures and will submit their ideas.

• Fr. Joe thanks everyone and asks for continued prayers for his mother.

**Military Honor Board:**

• The parish has asked for new pictures to update our Military Honor Board. The deadline is October 28 so it can be made ready for Veteran’s Day. No updates have yet been received. Mike suggested police officers be recognized as well. Deacon Ed noted they are usually honored under the title of First Responder and October 28 is National First Responder’s Day. Fr. Lucas proposed having separate boards to recognize Military, First Responders, and Medical Personnel. Council agreed and will make a new bulletin announcement.

**New Business:**

T-shirt Motto—Ideas for a motto for a parish T-shirt came in from Amy and Paulette:

* “Striving for Christ: Together Hand in Hand
* “Epiphany of the Lord: To Know, To Love, To Serve

Council will extend this item for another month to allow other samples to come in.

**Open Forum:**

• Council discussed the St. Michael Prayer after the Mass. Mary observed that the prayer seems rushed and perhaps could be said before the closing hymn. Fr. will check liturgical standards to see if it could be said after the final blessing.

• Alex has spoken with Fr. Joe about having Vespers after the Saturday Vigil Mass. Details are to be forthcoming.

**Announcements:**

• St. James Haven has sent an announcement around for their Silver Collection. It is an initiative in which people collect their loose change for the month of October and then write a check to the shelter on the 31st.

• Epiphany is hosting a dinner for the state Catholic Daughters of America for its 110th anniversary. Our Court Columbia #2 is the oldest court in the world that is still in existence.

• Next council meeting is November 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm, St. Agatha Center

**Closing Prayer**: 7:08 pm, Fr. Lucas