**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD PARISH**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

**APRIL 11, 2022**

**Present**: Fr. Jeff Lucas, Paulette Widmann, Lois Curtin, Alex Hilton, Angela Bisbee, Sue Kelly, Linda Patton, Hope Fiely, Mary Burkett, Mike Kloecker, Amy Mosbacher, Sergio Cortés, Jesse Sipos

**Welcome:** Paulette Widmann, 6:02 pm

**Opening Prayer**: Fr. Jeff Lucas

**Old Business:**

Minutes: minutes of March 14, 2022 approved with the correction of the spelling of ad orientem

Status/Updates:

***Evangelization and Adult Formation*** (Amy Mosbacher)

▪Fr. Joe’s class on the Liturgy is wrapping up with the final session this week. Class was very well attended, having fifty-two in-person students last week and eight to ten online. The final class will be an explanatory Mass at St. Mary of Grace. Anyone is welcome to attend.

▪The Praise and Worship Holy Hour has been moved to St. Agatha. The move helps to accommodate *Harmony’s House*, the live music provider. The Holy Hours are still the first Monday of the month.

▪The Healing Mass this month was very well attended with approximately 150 present.

▪Parish Mission preparations are underway.

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

▪The Middle States Accreditation visit to Seton was completed on March 24. The written report will come later but the team has indicated they will recommend Seton for re-accreditation. Comments from the team were positive, citing Seton’s evident Catholic identity, rigorous academics, engaged teachers, enthusiastic parents, and excellent communication among parents, students, and staff. The school is clean, well-maintained, and has very supportive priests and staff. Areas needing some attention in the future are organizational charting, succession charting for staff openings and a plan for mental health concerns. Mrs. Hess reports that these plans are in place already but written documents are needed. She thanks everyone for their support of this great school.

▪Upcoming events include the Living Stations, Grandparents Day, Seton Sports Raffle, May Crowning, and the Seton Middle School Social.

***Religious Education*** (Sergio Cortés)

▪With a decree from the bishop, changes to the Confirmation program are now official. The four-year plan originally conceived has been altered to a five-year plan for the transition. Next year tenth and eleventh graders will receive Confirmation. Details of the remainder of the plan will be forthcoming.

▪Youth group and the grade-level retreats have been going very well. VBS and the summer program are in place for this year.

▪Questions arose regarding the difference between the four-year vs. the five-year transition plan. Also discussed were ways of encouraging attendance after Confirmation. Details of the specifics of the five-year plan are not yet available but will be coming from the diocese. With the implementation of the new program, hopefully Confirmation will not be seen simply as a type of “graduation”, but as another step in the spiritual journey. The high school years will not be content-packed but will focus on small groups.

***Pastoral Plan*** (Fr. Jeff Lucas)

▪The parish is still waiting for the report from Roger Gildea, which he is currently working on. Decisions will be able to be made regarding all our properties once it arrives.

▪Fr. Lucas is considering topics for his next class for the parish. Some possibilities are Thomas Aquinas, The Gospel of John, and John Henry Newman.

***Facilities Maintenance/Improvements*** (Jesse Sipos)

▪Staffing moves include hiring Cameron Conrad as full-time maintenance. Part-time maintenance person, Derwin Stockton, will be retiring and his position will need filled. Fish dinners and Confirmation has kept the staff busy recently.

▪The grand piano has successfully been moved and will be tuned on Thursday of this week. The electric piano may or may not stay but will be moved as needed to the other locations for funerals, weddings, and other special events. If it remains at St. Agatha, Mary suggested repositioning it farther from the ambo for a cleaner look. Lois voiced appreciation of having the grand piano at St. Agatha and noted the beauty of the Palm Sunday Mass.

▪Grisé audio is working on a proposal to be submitted for sound. Eric Johnson Audio has been tweaking the sound system as a first step in improvement.

***Emergency Response Plan*** (Sue Kelly)

▪The Emergency Response Plan was compiled by Sue Kelly, Mary Burkett, Jamie Sopher, and Jesse Sipos. It was based on other plans investigated by the team and tailored to fit the needs of our parish. The plan covers such things as weather emergencies, fire, flood, electrical/gas emergencies, intruder/disruptive behavior, and first-aid emergencies. Training for ushers, greeters, staff, and volunteers will occur in the coming months. The plan will be posted on the parish website and a copy may be requested from the office.

▪Sue walked the council through the various parts of the plan to get feedback and questions from the members. Minor changes are in place.

***T-Shirts with Church Motto***

▪Paulette visited *Earth Sun Moon Trading Company*, Grove City, PA and shared the pricing break-downs for T-shirts and various items for our church motto. Council members discussed what the initial order would entail. A small introductory order will be made and council will go from there.

***Pastoral Council Recruitment***

A bulletin announcement was placed two weeks ago and will run all month for recruitment.

**New Business:**

Offertory Update

Due to the challenges of the pandemic and increasing inflation, the parish staff has not received a cost-of-living increase for several years. It has been determined that if each family gave only one dollar more per week, then the parish could reach this goal. Discussion followed about ways to present it to the people. Linda suggested a bulletin explanation under the “Did You Know” section. Hope thought it important to also explain where we are in the merger and why we are still having to wait on decisions regarding the other facilities. Though the joining of our three parishes into one has cut some costs, this small increase in giving each week would help tremendously.

**Open Forum:**

▪Fr. Lucas and Paulette recognized and thanked Jesse for his hard work this year managing the Lenten Fish Dinners.

▪Angela heard positive comments about the beautiful Palm Sunday decorations and the beautiful music. Linda, likewise, heard positive comments about Confirmation. Fr. agreed that both went smoothly. Amy noted that the newly-formed Hospitality Team did a fabulous job for the Confirmation.

▪Mary would like to see the more traditional music at Mass not fade away. Fr. Lucas agreed that there is room for both traditional and contemporary music at our Masses. Sergio has been in contact with a friend from Mercyhurst who has experience with contemporary worship music, and who may be able to provide help in building up our music ministry.

▪Paulette and Lois shared some disappointment from various parishioners regarding the placement of the Sacred Heart statue. The statue may be able to be raised somewhat, however, it should not be raised to such a height as to interfere with the windows or the contours of the interior. Other possibilities are being considered.

**Announcements:**

▪First Holy Communion, May 1, 2022, 11:30 am Mass

▪Holy Triduum & Easter schedule in the bulletin and the beautiful Easter Card

▪Divine Mercy Novena-begins Good Friday and ends on Divine Mercy Sunday

▪Next parish council meeting, May 23, 2022, 6:00 pm, St. Agatha Center

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Lucas, 8:06 pm