

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINUTES ST. JOHN PAUL 4/25/16

Members present: Tim Rougeau, Mary Whitman, Barb Armata, Pat Clairmont, Mary Ann Wojtaszek, Robin Loughman, Karen Ketcham.

1. Mary Ann led an opening prayer.

2. Previous meeting's minutes were accepted.

3. Review of Philadelphia trip: Mary showed photos from the trip, which included visits to shrines of St. Katharine Drexel & St. John Neumann, Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, Old St. Mary's Church (this is where Father McAndrews "calls home" but he wasn't there to see the group). All pilgrims received a medal of St. Katharine Drexel. Everything went well on the trip.

Saturday August 27th is the day for our parish's one-day pilgrimage. Mary reported that unfortunately Stockbridge is "full" that weekend so we will not be able to go there. Mary and the tour bus company are exploring alternatives, such as Our Lady of Loreto in Worcester along with St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer. Tim commented favorably on both of those. The more people who sign up, the less expensive it will be per person.

4. Confirmation plans are all set for May 3rd. Monsignor Mike Shershanovich from Pittsfield will confirm our students.

5. Ascension: Vigil Mass Wednesday May 4th at 7 pm in Notre Dame. Thursday morning May 5th at 10 am in St. Stanislaus. There will be no separate special Year of Mercy Mass this month, since the first Wednesday of the month when it would normally be held falls on the vigil of the Ascension.

6. Upcoming events: May Devotions will be on Fridays at 6 pm at St. Stan's. This will tentatively include the Litany of Loreto and a Chaplet. Tim may be able to attend one more and provide some music.

Memorial Day Mass is scheduled for 9 am at the St. Stan's Cemetery, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather the Mass will be held in St. Stan's Church.

A parish Polish Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 31 at the Mill Street Polanka Grounds. The 10:15 Mass for that morning will be switched to an 11 am Mass at the Polanka Grounds. It will not be a Polka Mass as we had hoped because the band does not do them. (the Rymanowski Brothers)

7. Year of Mercy Events: Divine Mercy Veneration, Fridays at 2:30 at St. Stan's. Wednesdays after the morning Mass at Notre Dame. The First Wednesday Masses will resume in June (as previously noted in May it is replaced by the Ascension vigil Mass).

8. New Year of Mercy item: St. Maximilian Kolbe relics will be in Chicopee and Holyoke in mid-June. More information will be run in our bulletin.

9. Notre Dame organ update: Tim said there has been an anonymous donation of \$8800, which is the amount needed for the down payment on the organ he has researched and feels will be suitable and affordable. The various committees have to approve everything first. Tim has played this organ and says it sounds like a pipe organ and that it will sound nice in our church. The current organ is getting worse and Tim is afraid it will fail in the middle of a wedding or funeral. It has already made strange noises during Mass. If we put a plea in the bulletin for earmarked donations we might be able to collect a good portion of the remaining \$12,000 needed. (earmarked donations are not subject to the "cathedraticum," the percentage the diocese gets of each church's weekly donations)

10. New business: none

11. Next meeting will be Monday May 23rd, at 6 pm in Kolbe Hall.

12. The closing prayer was an Our Father.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Loughman, secretary