

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE MINUTES 3/28/16 ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT**

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

Meeting opened with a Hail Mary.

Previous meeting's minutes were accepted.

Lent and Easter review: Everything went well. The only adjustment for next year would be to slow down the procession from Notre Dame to St. Stan's after the Holy Thursday Mass to make it a little easier for people to keep up. Tim has been keeping a "to-do" list for the Triduum and Easter Sunday and updating it. We have missed Deacon Greg and have a new appreciation for everything he normally does for us this time of year!

Upcoming events:

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 3rd, the Chaplet at St. Stan's. Tim is tentatively planning to sing the Chaplet.

The Adoration Chapel will re-open at 6 pm on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the winter closure.

First Holy Communion will be at Notre Dame, noon on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is also the last day of CCD classes. Nick P. is stepping down from CCD and handing this off entirely to Steve Melito. They have been co-directors the past year.

Confirmation will be Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the Knights of Columbus providing a dinner for the kids on Monday. Nick P will be the new confirmation coordinator. Pete Gutmann is continuing as 11<sup>th</sup> grade CCD teacher.

May devotions will be held Fridays at 6 pm at St. Stan's. Devotions will be a Rosary and/or Chaplet, and a Litany of Loreto.

During May, parishioners will be able to sponsor a rose in honor of mothers or other female loved ones. The roses will be displayed in both churches this year. (In June it will be the men's turn)

May 5<sup>th</sup> is Ascension Thursday. The Wednesday Vigil Mass will be 7 pm at Notre Dame (so this is in place of the first Wednesday Mass for the month). Mass at St. Stan's at 10 am on Thursday.

Year of Mercy events: The Novena is continuing through Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 pm daily at St. Stan's.

Pat reported that the pilgrimage to Philadelphia has enough people signed up so it's a definite. It's scheduled for April 11-13.

Mary reported that we will sponsor one day-trip, on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. We will visit two sites: Lourdes in Litchfield and Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge. The cost will be between \$63 and \$85 depending on how many people sign up. Details will need to be worked out but we do know Father Steve is scheduled to go on the trip and say Mass in Stockbridge at 4 pm.

St. Maximilian Kolbe relics are scheduled to be in Chicopee and Holyoke in June. We are not sponsoring a trip, but Tim will put a reminder notice in the bulletin soon.

Notre Dame organ: Tim gave a report on the 35-year-old Notre Dame organ and the prognosis is not good. He has had it evaluated by a professional, who recommended a complete replacement. The professional said it WILL fail, sooner rather than later. It could be repaired at a cost of 8-12 thousand dollars, but this would still not fix it, and it would still fail soon. Tim said when it dies, it will probably make horrible noises, and he is afraid it will stop working during a wedding or funeral, or in the middle of a song during Mass. He explained that it's electronic, so everything is inter-connected, and you cannot turn off or isolate whatever part is malfunctioning. If it were a pipe organ, whatever pipe is not working could just be disconnected. This cannot be done with an electronic organ.

Tim has researched a "free" organ from a closed church in Easthampton, but discovered it is not a very good one, made of flimsy parts by a disreputable company, so this is not a practical option.

The organ professional who came out to look at ours made a proposal for our parish to buy a 13 year old used organ which is in very good condition. Tim has tried it out. He said it uses current technology and there is the potential to hook up parts of the old pipe organ to it. The cost would be \$20,880, which would include installation, removal of the old organ, tuning/calibrating the organ to the space, and training for Tim. (by contrast, a similar brand-new organ would cost at least \$50,000) The committee agreed this sounded good and Tim planned to bring it to the Parish Council for discussion. Undoubtedly there would need to be some fund-raising for this.

New Business: The parish will be holding a Polish Picnic on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, at the Polanka Grounds. The Rymanowski Brothers polka band is scheduled. It is possible there may be a Polka Mass preceding the picnic. In that event 10:15 Mass would probably be moved to 11 or 11:30 at the Polanka Grounds. Tim is the chairman for the event. More details to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 7 pm with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Loughman, secretary