

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE MINUTES      ST. JOHN PAUL 8/29/16**

Members in attendance: Deacon Greg, Barb Armata, Tim Rougeau, Karen Ketcham, Robin Loughman, Mary Ann Wojtaszek, Pat Clairmont, Mary Whitman.

Opening prayer was given by Deacon Greg.

Previous meeting's minutes were accepted.

Elections of officers deferred til September meeting.

Mission: The annual parish mission will take place September 25-28. Father Gary Caster is our mission leader. He will celebrate daily Mass in the mornings at St. Stan's and will do evening sessions at Notre Dame. Father told Tim that the topic will be the same each day, but the talks will be different. There is a banner outside Notre Dame, and posters have been ordered. It was decided that posters, if allowed, should be placed in all Northern Berkshire churches, as well as local businesses. Tim is taking care of emailing info to churches for their bulletins. Barb will contact Chris Milesi about the hospitality committee handling a small reception on Wednesday, probably in the back of Notre Dame church, since the school will be "tied up" for the Fall Fest. The tentative plan is that a free-will offering basket will be placed by the doors.

Other upcoming events: As in previous years, October Rosary devotions will be held on Fridays, 6 pm, and St. Stan's. Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints Day, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Mass will be Monday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm, at Notre Dame, and the 10 am Mass will be at St. Stan's on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, All Souls Day, is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but since it falls on the first Wednesday of the month, there will be a Mass in the evening as we have been doing throughout the Year of Mercy.

Year of Mercy events: Diving Mercy Veneration continues on Fridays at 2:30 at St. Stan's, Wednesdays after Morning Mass At Notre Dame. First Wednesday Masses continue at St. Stan's at 6 pm., preceded by confessions at 5:30.

New Business: Mary talked about the travelling statue of Our Lady of Fatima coming to the area. It will be at St. Elizabeth Parish in North Adams on Sept. 10-11. The parish will be combining Adoration with Veneration of the statue in the church for 24 hours, and reached out to Mary asking if anyone from our parish would like to help out. The hours are 7:30 am Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> through 8 am on Sunday morning. After their morning Masses they will have a procession around the city with the statue, and return to the parish center. The statue will be in the other parishes in the area as well, including our parish on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, in Notre Dame church from 9 am til 1:30 pm.

The parish pilgrimage to Connecticut scheduled for August 27 was cancelled due to low numbers. First Choice Tours has retained our deposit, but it can be used toward a tour in 2017.

Tim reported from Steve Melito that there will be 4 youth Masses this year, where the kids will read, greet, and be in the choir. October 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the first, at the 10:15 Mass. The CCD schedule has been “stretched out” to go later in the year by giving off weekends in the winter. This way First Holy Communion will be back to Mother’s Day, and Confirmation will be later in the month of May. Tim said Bishop Rozanski has confirmed he will be here for Confirmation.

Tim also reported that all Masses for the remainder of 2016 are booked, but candles and altar breads are still available. Masses for 2016 may be booked only for “Month’s Mind” or a significant anniversary of death.

As Father Steve reported at Mass this past weekend, a recently ordained (2013) priest, Father Rob Miskell, will be joining our parish this coming weekend for a one-year assignment. In addition, the diocese is working on getting Father Steve to be officially part of our diocese. He is currently “on loan” from New Hampshire.

Next meeting is Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in Kolbe Hall.

Closing prayer given by Deacon Greg. Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Loughman