

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINUTES, ST. JOHN PAUL PARISH, 5/1/2017

Members in attendance: Steve Melito, Mary Ann Wojtaszek, Deacon Greg, Father Steve, Barb Armata, Karen Ketcham, and Robin Loughman. Guests present: Sister Jacqueline, Jenna Janz, and Colleen Janz.

Opening prayer was given by Deacon Greg.

Previous meeting's minutes (1/30/17) were accepted.

Lent and Easter:

Barb said that confession lines were very long for that last Saturday before Easter, and many parishioners were left in line unable to go because the priest had to leave for 4 pm Mass. Deacon Greg suggested we need longer times during Lent. Robin suggested one evening during Holy Week, like we did 2 years ago, with confession during Gorzkie Zale (Lamentations) at St. Stan's. We will revisit this topic next year.

Steve Melito reported that several adults were confirmed on Holy Saturday. Any priest can do it that day. RCIA will start again in the fall.

Upcoming Events:

May devotions will take place at 6 pm on Fridays at St. Stan's. It consists of the Litany, a Chaplet, and Benediction.

First Holy Communion will take place at noon on May 7th at Notre Dame.

Parish Council will be doing a push to attract new members for all committees. A "volunteer fair" may take place after Masses the weekend of May 20/21. Steve Melito wants a table to try to get CCD teachers. Father Steve said we basically need volunteers for everything.

Confirmation will be on May 23rd. Bishop Rozanski is scheduled to be here.

Memorial Day Mass will take place, weather permitting, at 9 am at the St. Stan's Cemetery. Father Rob will celebrate. In the event of inclement weather, it will be held in St. Stan's Church.

Quebec Pilgrimage:

24 people went on this trip in April. Participants gave it high praise and Karen said Father's Masses were beautiful. Kudos and many thanks to Larry Clairmont, the organizer, for all his efforts in making the trip happen!

New Business:

Rock Masses, etc.: Colleen Janz and her daughter Jenna, who joined our parish recently, spoke about their experiences in Florida with "Rock" Masses, run by the kids. Colleen suggested this would be a good way to attract youth and teens, and keep them engaged. She said it works well at the church they recently attended in Florida. There is a lot of youth participation and the parish is very vibrant. While we do not have a whole lot of kids, it would be good to do something more for them, to encourage a sense of community for the kids specifically. It would be nice to do something more than just dropping them off for CCD.

Colleen said she would like to see this at our parish, but this would ideally be part of a broader plan. She suggested we first try to form a youth group, to help the kids feel like a part of the parish community. She suggested having a Rock Mass, maybe once a month, separate from regular Masses, might help the kids feel their faith through music. She noted that Rock Masses have been around since the 60s. Kyrie Eleison, popularized by the band Mr. Mister, would be an example of a rock song used at one of the Masses. Lastly, she suggested the parish try to get a group of kids to go to a National Catholic Youth Conference. We could invite kids from neighboring parishes to join us. She has attended before and said they are very empowering for kids.

Father Steve invited Colleen to come up with an official proposal. They can meet with Tim Rougeau, our music director, to see what resources are available for a Rock Mass.

Adoration Chapel: Deacon Greg and Sister Jacqueline have been trying to come up with a workable solution for re-opening the Adoration Chapel. Deacon Bob Moulton organized it and got it going over 10 years ago. It originally was open round the clock from Sunday evening through Thursday evening. But in the past 10 years, people have gotten older and less able to participate, many folks have passed away, and many people stopped when St. Stan's Church was closed. Chapel hours had been gradually diminishing, to the point where last year it was only 9 am to 9 pm, Monday-Wednesday.

No one has volunteered to be coordinator after John and Denise DeSanty stepped down last year. Sister said one couple shouldn't have to be responsible for the whole schedule. If someone can't make their time slot, the coordinator was frequently stuck trying to find a replacement, and this was becoming more difficult. This is why no one wants to do it. People don't want to volunteer if they feel they were be stuck all the time.

In an effort to revive the Adoration Chapel, it was suggested to call a meeting of those who were committed previously to brainstorm and see

what could be worked out. Sister said that other parishes have Adoration with limited hours, for example 3 hours one day a week. Father Steve said we really need to have 2 people scheduled for each hour, so that when inevitably someone can't make their time slot, it's not a crisis because there's still one person.

Father Steve also suggested asking John for his input as to what were the strengths and weaknesses, and what were the problems? Father said we need suggestions for what's do-able, and we need to be realistic. We need to be clear about what is required, and we need to figure out how to disperse the responsibilities among several people, so that no one person is left "holding the bag."

Deacon Greg said he would start the process by asking John for his input, so that we are not starting from scratch, and so we don't repeat the same stuff that didn't work before. He will also talk to Deacon Bruce Ziter in North Adams to see how St. Elizabeth's Adoration Chapel is managing.

Other New Business:

Karen asked if choir members need CORI checks if they are consistently interacting with kids. The answer is yes, and anyone who needs one should contact Joe Rogge.

Steve Melito mentioned that the 5th and 6th grade CCD classes raised \$435 from the sale of bracelets, to go to the Dominican Republican Water Project. The mission there will use the money to hire a person to maintain the water system in the village. Good job, 5th and 6th grade!

Haiti Plunge pancake breakfast was a success. The proceeds from this will go towards helping families pay tuition for their children. There are no public schools, and many families are unable to afford tuition, so their kids can't attend school.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27th, 6 pm, in Kolbe Hall. (please note the change from a Monday to the Tuesday, in order not to conflict with the town meeting scheduled for Monday)

Closing prayer was given by Deacon Greg, and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Loughman