

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

October 24, 2022

Father Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM. He opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was held both in person and via zoom for those who could not attend. Going forward the meetings will be held several times per year.

Clergy Update: Welcome Father Ignacio. Father Ignacio was previously at Saint Aloysius and Saint Thomas Moore. He assists the Diocese with prayer, healing and confessions as well as helping the Bishop with special events.

Rec Center Update: The baskets are in and the enter curtain is finished. Tomorrow Saint Matthew will receive the first rental check of \$25,000, which is a start although more is needed. Some Saturdays the gym will not be available during the day because it is rented. We have to do that to pay the bills. Currently there is \$2.8 million in debt and not many donations coming in. It will cost \$200,000 per year in operating expenses. In the winter turf may be put down so we can accommodate 7 different teams who want to book the gym and that will provide a steady income. The gym cannot be booked for private parties due to the insurance expense required. Jay Egan will make a presentation to the Parish Council at a future meeting. Many thanks to him for all his work getting the rec center rented.

Faith Formation: Faith Formation has moved to Sundays after the 9 AM mass. This has helped to get more Catechists. The parents are very happy with this new schedule. This past weekend there was a collaborative gathering for students in Grades 6-8 with other parishes in Norwalk. This was the idea of Father Sudhir, there will be more sessions for this age group throughout the year.

Christmas Sip and Shop: The Christmas Fair is December 3 & 4. There will be 40 tables available, 30 for outside vendors. All ministries can have a table and keep the proceeds they earn. For more information you can contact Sandra Jester. Her information is in the bulletin. All items must be new, nothing used; this is not a tag sale. There is a need for items that would appeal to men. The Catholic Daughters will handle the food and the Knights will sell beer and wine. The proceeds from that will go to the church. Each vendor and each ministry is required to donate an item for the raffle. If you know a vendor, contact them. The dates are December 3, 12-7 PM and December 4, 10 AM - 5 PM. This is optional for ministries to participate.

Bulletin Announcements: Events will not be placed in the bulletin more than one month before ticket sales begin. There just is not enough room and people will quit paying will get advertisement fatigue. Saint Matthew is trying to expand the bulletin and we need more advertisers. The "Weekender" is meant to remind people about things coming up during the current week, not in the future.

Fitness Club: Aggie Squeo, Head Currently they have 24 participants. She would like more people to be involved. Aggie is looking to partner with New Horizons and start a senior class.

Flower Committee: Aggie Squeo heads the flower committee. There is a lot of work to prepare for

Thanksgiving and Christmas. She would like additional volunteers.

Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines: A copy of the Parish Pastoral Guidelines for the Diocese of Bridgeport was emailed to all ministry heads prior to the meeting. This directive came from the Bishop in June of 2019. Father Jeff highlighted some the important information. The Parish Pastoral Council is meant to be consultive, not a governing body. We should seek to develop a statement of purpose which reflects the identity and mission of the Parish. The Parish Pastoral Council is in service to the Pastor. Father Jeff has appointed George Ribellino as the Lay Chair and DeeAnn Dorrico as the recording secretary. At the end of the year there will be an election for those positions. The Terms of Office are specified in the guidelines. The goal is for the Parish Council is to be the hub of communication and to provide all the information needed to come together and run the ministries.

Food Pantry: Beverly Martin, Head The Food Pantry was established in 2012. It has grown from 30 bags of groceries to 80 bags of groceries per week. They have 15 volunteers. Due to the increase cost of groceries they have had trouble filling the bags. They also buy food through contributions they receive.

Carnival: Joann Miller, Head This year the carnival made money. There were expenses associated with running ads on Cablevision and Social Media promotion. The raffle was very successful as well as the Beer booth. **Please Note Correction: There were expenses associated with Cablevision and Food ads, not Social Media promotion.**

Zoom Rosary: Patrick Kelly, Head The zoom Rosary has not missed a week in 2 years. There are 10-15 participants per week. There is potential for expansion.

New Horizons: Joan Walsh, Head New Horizons has 98 members. They are trying to promote more activities other than their monthly lunch. They have movies on Tuesday and Cards and Games twice a month. There activities are open to non-members too. New Horizons provided 5 scholarships last year.

Bible Camp: Claire Gutowski, Head There were 100 campers, 65 student volunteers and 25 adult volunteers last summer. They are looking to do some family events throughout the year, maybe a BINGO.

Music: Val Wyman, Head There are 5 music groups now. Mary Bozzuti Higgins had joined the music ministry. There is a concert on December 17 at 7 PM.

Mailing Committee: Mary Jane Johnston, Head There is not much happening now but Mary Jane and Barbara Sibiskie are ready whenever Father Jeff needs them.

Walking With Purpose: Mallory Moyer, Head Last week Lisa Beckenmeyer, founder of Walking With Purpose spoke at Saint Matthew. There were 500 tickets sold. It was a beautiful event. They are half way through there fall study and always welcome new members.

Ministry Schedule: JoAnn Esposito, Head JoAnn recently updated the list of participants. Currently

the schedule is done on a weekly basis but she is looking to move to a monthly schedule. Deacon Miguel is helping with the training of new members. They need more help, specially at the 5 PM mass.

Readers: Steve Russo, Head There are 48 active readers. They need to have a meeting to connect everyone. Steve is willing to train new readers.

Finance Committee: Mike Munisteri, Head The finance committee meet quarterly. This week they will meet to approve the financial statements. There is a need to increase revenue and decrease costs. The offertory is the largest part of our revenue. Their job is to make sure Saint Matthew follows the Diocesan guidelines, is solvent and has a plan for the future.

Bereavement: Sister Sally, Head There are usually two sessions per year, fall and spring. People join for many reasons. Sister Sally has witnessed many mini miracles through the healing and bonding she has witnessed in this group. It has been a gift. Please pray for those who are grieving.

Knights of Columbus: Chris O'Connor, Head The Knights recently held their Italian Dinner. They built a playground at Saint Matthew. This weekend they are participating in Coats for Kids and they are planning to have a tree lighting the last Sunday in November.

Catholic Daughters: Nancy Piro, Head Currently there are 42 members. They collected school supplies for Room to Grow Preschool. Upcoming events include a bake sale November 12 & 13, the Christmas Fair, a women's retreat and the annual tea party.

Rosary Group: Ramona Bouffard, Head The October sign up for the Rosary went well. They give out Rosaries, serve as the Guardians at First Friday Adoration, pray for intercessions daily.

Grounds: Orlyna Starr, Head there is nothing to report. Everyone applauded her work to keep the church grounds looking beautiful.

Manna House: Michelle Gallo, Head Four times a year Saint Matthew prepares food for the shelter. They cook and make bag lunches for 100 people. The food is prepared at Saint Matthew and delivered to the shelter, they are not allowed in to serve at the present time.

Photographer: Anna Mastrolillo, Head Due to an injury Anna has not been able to take photographs but will get back to it. If anyone else takes pictures they can email them to Annie.

George Ribellino, Lay Chair said a few words. He thanked Father Jeff for Choosing him to lead and DeeAnn to be the secretary of the Parish Pastoral Council. He expects great things ahead. Some ideas he would like to organize are:

Sign Up Sunday, to help ministries get new members. This will take place after the first of the year

Parish Outreach Project, to provide hurricane relief to Florida. He is planning to reach out to Catholic Relief Services for transportation.

Christmas Party, for the members of the Pastoral Council.

Coffee And, open to ministries who want to host monthly coffee on Sunday. Contact Nancy Piro if interested.

Father Jeff closed with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM

The next meeting is Monday, November 14

Respectfully Submitted,

DeeAnn Dorrico

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