

Pastoral Council Minutes

Meeting held on Thurs, April 20th 2023

6:30 pm, Holy Spirit Gym

In attendance: Michael Long, Rich Nigro, David Connolly, Ron Zimmerman, Michael Nichols, Hon. J. Gerard McAuliffe, Sal Giarizzo, Ann Simonson, Mia Franko, Fr. Matt

- i. The Meeting opened with prayer at 6:35 pm by Fr. Matt
- ii. The Minutes from the Previous Meeting were accepted with a nomination by Michael Long. All were in favor.
- iii. Discussion/Review of installation of new security cameras at Church of the Holy Spirit.
- iv. Review of Change in Mass Schedule. Fr. Matt posted a letter to both parish websites and parish facebook pages advertising the change. It was also announced at the weekend Masses for April 22nd and 23rd.
Council members suggested to put the letter in the bulletin soon as well as to pin the letter on the church doors and posterboards, email the letter, use neon-colored paper (green, etc).
- v. Fun Fest Planning Meeting Review-
The next fun fest meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd, 6:30 pm at Holy Trinity Church in Johnstown. The floor plan was discussed as were a possible performance by Flame (a Lexington – based musical group).
A council member suggested a possible bakery contest.
- vi. Somewhat lengthy discussion regarding the Roman Catholic Diocese declaring bankruptcy on Wednesday, March 15th and the ensuing zoom calls that the linked parish trustees (Ron Zimmerman, Rich Nigro, Concetta Sager, and Lynn Knowlton) were asked to join along with Fr. Matt (Wednesday, March 15th and Monday, April 17th).
While there are no firm plans just yet, it appears that the seven vicariates will be asked to be represented by a committee(s) that will review how each parish/school/institution will be required to participate with the legal fees and settlements associated with the reorganization.
Discussion regarding how there could be trouble raising funds for the diocesan appeal later this year because of the fall-out and negative perception.
Hon. J. Gerard McAuliffe said that he must resign from the pastoral council now because of the continuing discussions regarding legal settlements and money.
It is a conflict of interest for him given his legal profession. Fr. Matt and the council are sad to see him go but they understand given the situation.

vii.

Round Robin:

Rich Nigro – Has not heard any negative comments about the upcoming change in Mass schedule effective July 1st/2nd. David Connolly and Mia Franko agreed with this.

Ron Zimmerman – The Joint Men’s Group meets every third Monday evening for faith sharing, discussion with Deacons Larry and Dick. They hosted the March St. Patrick’s Day dinner at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, March 12th. There was a great turn-out. They are planning a parish picnic for September. They are planning more meals in the future (If you feed them, they will come!).

Michael Nichols – It is important to get the youth involved. It is good when young people support and pray for each other.

Mia Franko and Sal Giarizzo added “All Good!” comments.

Ann Simonson – HT & HS have between 20 – 25 kids ready to attend Breakaway Camp in the summer at Pyramid Life Center (Week of June 25th). The upcoming basket raffle will need to be successful in order to help defray the cost for each young person. The deadline to drop off baskets to either office is Wednesday, April 26th.

The theme this year is “Speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

First Communion Masses coming up soon (Sat, May 6th, Sat, May 13th).
Confirmation is coming up soon as well (Tues, May 16th).

The Meeting concluded with prayer at 7:50 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25th, Holy Trinity Church Hall in Johnstown, 6:30 pm (note: The usual Third Thursday meeting cannot be held due to the Ascension Thursday Mass Schedule for that day).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Fr. Matt Wetsel