

## Parish Pastoral Council Minutes December 5, 2019

**Attendance:** Phil Blankenstein, Tom Mc Nelis, Mary Murphy, Mary King O'Leary, Deacon John Stapleton, Michelle Wunder, Jay Yohn, Mary Ann Zerkowski, Msgr. Ed Domin

The meeting began with a prayer.

### **Parish Mission 2021 - Update**

Jay Yohn reported that he confirmed the Parish Mission dates March 21-23, 2021 with Father Bill Garrot. He will continue to correspond with Father to seek additional information i.e. a biography and photo of Father. Bulletin announcements with "Save the Dates" will occur after Easter.

### **Council Membership**

Phil Blankenstein updated the application form for prospective Council members. Council members were encouraged to seek new members with some emphasis on young parishioners. Application forms and bulletin information will be available in the spring.

### **Parish Retreat Day**

Mary Murphy reported that the next Parish Day Retreat at the McGlenn Conference Center will be on November 7, 2020.

### **Welcoming Greeting Mass**

Mary King O'Leary and Michelle Wunder spoke about experiences they had at churches in other states that promoted a feeling of welcome. They explained that before Mass the celebrant asked everyone to extend a greeting of welcome to those around them. The Council felt this was a perfect way to evangelize especially on Holidays. After some discussion, it was decided to institute this practice at Easter and beyond...once the flu season is past but in the meantime, we should do it with the celebration of all Christmas Masses. This gesture is not intended to take the place of the "Sign of Peace."

### **Christmas Boutique**

Jay Yohn informed the Council that the Boutique was very successful. The crowds were great on Friday and Saturday with many positive comments about the food, gift baskets, and vendors. The dinners and pierogies were completely sold out in record time. The net profit was \$11,678.63. The Boutique Committee was thankful for the donations they received from local businesses and individuals as well the many volunteers who helped during the two day event. Special thanks to the Boy Scouts and CYO and for helping to break down and clean up after the conclusion of the Boutique.

### **Active Shooter Training**

Msgr. Ed informed the Council that St. Catharine's will host an Active Shooter Training Conference for all Diocesan parishes in Berks County on March 7, 2020. The four hour training will be held in our social hall. Each parish will select 5 individuals that are involved in first response or medical fields to attend the session. Active shooter drills will take place after the training is completed and parishioners are instructed as to the procedures to follow.

### **Other Business**

Msgr. Domin informed the Council that the carpet will be replaced in the Church this summer.

Meeting dates for 2020 are as follows.

March 26, 2020    June 25, 2020    October 1, 2020    December 3, 2020

The meeting ended with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary C. Murphy  
Secretary

Next meeting: March 26, 2020 in the Parish Center at 7 p.m.  
Mary Ann Zerkowski has the opening prayer.

