**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD PARISH**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

**Present:** Fr. Jeffrey Lucas, Fr. Joseph Petrone, Deacon Ed Horneman, Paulette Widmann, Amy Mosbacher, Lois Curtin, Linda Patton, Michael Kloecker, Jesse Sipos, Ann Nelson, Anna Mercatoris

**Excused:** Bill Bittner, Sergio Cortés

**Welcome:** 6:00 pm, Paulette Widmann

**Opening prayer:** Fr. Lucas

**Old Business:**

 Minutes: minutes of May 23, 2022 approved

 Status/Updates:

 ***Evangelization/Adult Formation:*** Amy Mosbacher

 ▪ A busy start to the fall has begun with several formation programs. Deacon Ken is leading a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Mondays at 1:00 pm. Fr. Lucas will begin his class on John Henry Newman tomorrow and Amy will offer a class, *The Kingdom of Happiness*, in October. *Catholics Returning Home* is set to begin next week. A presentation on Eucharistic Miracles will be presented on October 8 at 6:30 pm followed by Forty Hours, October 9-11. *That Man is You* will be offered Saturday mornings by Bill McCraley which is a program encouraging men in their roles as father and spiritual heads of families.

 ***Seton School:*** Fr. Lucas

 ▪ Mrs. Hess is finishing up her educational process to become a certified principal.

 ▪ The school is working on a new assessment tool with the help of the board.

 ▪ Seton received their Middle States Accreditation

 ▪ Last year Seton graduated a large eighth grade class, and yet, numbers have still gone up. There are now 154 students.

 ▪ The new Director of Advancement, Kristin Davis, is well prepared and has been working hard for Seton.

 ***Religious Education:*** Fr. Lucas

 ▪ A successful summer program has wrapped up. VBS was had an excellent turn out with thirty participants. This is up from nineteen in the previous summer.

 ▪ Faith Formation opens on September 18. The middle-school parents will meet once monthly and may mix with Amy’s weekly parent group. There will be a packet of eight lessons for parents to complete. The middle-school youth group will start up in the next few weeks.

 ▪ The new Confirmation program is being phased in. This year 10th and 11th grades will receive the sacrament of Confirmation and eventually will be offered in 9th grade. The 9th grade program will consist of small groups. As of now, Fr. Lucas and Fr. Joe will help facilitate these sessions since the diocese has not completed the revisions yet.

 ***Pastoral Planning Task Force:*** Fr. Lucas

 ▪ Gildea has been replaced with a new company from Erie to do the feasibility assessment and the parish is still waiting on their report covering the details and cost of the study. Once the data comes in, a decision regarding the facilities can move forward.

 ▪ The Offertory Plea has accomplished its goal and a cost-of-living increase will finally benefit the maintenance and office staff.

 ***Facilities Maintenance:*** Jesse Sipos

 ▪ Several CSA projects are in the works. Dormers around St. Agatha parish house were in the process of being repaired but the work has stalled and efforts are being made to compel Luzier to return and complete the project. Parking lots were sealed at St. Agatha and St. Mary. Some of the crumbling sidewalks have been repaired with areas still in need of fixing. Areas of the heated sidewalk were damaged due to a frozen water line that burst. The boiler is in need of replacement also. Cost of a new boiler ran to $9500 last year. Ann mentioned a special needs class from the high school that is looking for projects for the students. They may connect with Jesse to help out with tasks such as vacuuming and window washing. Svetz Energy Services were hired to do an energy audit. The information will be used to help save costs, such as electric, gas, and lighting, at all facilities and will be used along with the feasibility study.

 ***Security Plan:*** Mike Kloecker

 ▪ Mike and Jesse surveyed the parish buildings and gathered information on gas and electric shut-off valves and sent it to Sue, who will complete the Security Plan. The Greeters/Ushers initiative is moving forward and will meet soon.

 ***Parish picnic:*** Paulette acknowledged the success of this year’s parish picnic and thanked Mike and his team for the wonderful work putting it all together and making it enjoyable for all.

 ***T-shirts:*** Thanks went out to Linda and her husband, Doug, Ann, and Sue for helping to sell shirts at the picnic. As of the picnic in August, the parish collected $1000, which will more than cover the cost of the items. Some of the items are still available in the church office. Ann suggested having them displayed for sale at the monthly coffee and doughnuts events that are held after Mass.

 ***Pastoral Council Recruitment:*** Council received one response to the call for new members and will welcome Bill Bittner at the next meeting. Three spots are still open.

 ***Military Board:*** No updated pictures have been submitted. Paulette would like to have it completed before Veteran’s Day and asked that everyone spread the word to families of parishioners to send in photos.

**New Business:**

 ***Appreciation Letter:*** Council member, Alex Hilton, is heading to the seminary in Detroit and from there to study in Rome. Paulette will send an appreciation letter for all his service to the parish.

**Open Forum:**

 ▪ Linda observed the positive aspects that new items in the bulletin portray, such as welcoming new parish members and congratulating milestone anniversaries.

 ▪ Ann shared the difficulty in recruiting new volunteers for parish events like the spaghetti dinner. As the seasoned volunteers age, it has not been easy to find replacements. An idea would be to have a single source for contact information for those willing to help at parish activities. Fr. suggested a sign-up sheet similar to the one used for Lenten fish dinners. Paulette asked about compiling a new parish directory as a tool to find contacts. Anna recommends a collective site for all church activities. Amy explained there is a calendar on the parish website for activities and booklets in the parish office outlining all the ministries and regular activities of the parish. They are given out to new parishioners but are available to anyone. Several council members agreed that the “Did You Know” section of the weekly bulletin is very helpful.

 ▪ Deacon Ed shared his and Diane’s plans for their upcoming pilgrimage to Spain to travel a portion of the Camino de Santiago. It will cover approximately seventy-seven miles and last about six days. They also are planning a public pilgrimage of eleven days to Lourdes, France in September, 2023. Brochures with information about the trip can be found in the parish office. Paulette will be making her own pilgrimage this year to Stockbridge, Massachusetts to the Divine Mercy Shrine.

**Announcements:**

 ▪ Bishop Persico Pro-Life Mass for the Vicariate, Sunday, October 2, 2022, 11:30 at St. Agatha

 ▪Next meeting, October 24, 2022 at 6:00, St. Agatha Center

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Lucas, 7:27 pm