

DATE: 20 MARCH 2016  
RE: MARCH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Fr. Scott, Fr. Ixon, Terry Beecroft, Karen Bucyk, Carol Casey, Marc Dodier, Maureen Donohue, Thea Gove, Marian Hefron, Jack Luz, Dianne Mills, Ed Mills

The meeting was held at the Holy Family Parish Lower Church. The meeting started with an opening prayer provided by Carol Casey. First on the agenda was a discussion about last month's speaker, Noah Hill, and the Merrimack Valley Project. Topics of discussion were the cost, how it may coincide with our Pastoral Plan and if it could help with the issue of needs of the community that may not be being met. It was suggested that we invite other parish priests to speak about how the Merrimack Valley Project has worked in their parishes. Maureen Donohue has volunteered to look into this initiative.

Jack Luz mentioned the Steubenville East Catholic Conference. It is a weekend event for local high school-aged students. He would be willing to sponsor a few spots if they are still available.

The council also discussed how the Pastoral Council can play a role in the Pastoral Plan. Agreed to have 1 Parish Council member and 1 Parish Finance Council member on each of the 4 Pastoral Plan teams.

The council discussed the Lenten Season –

As part of the parish mission – changing the terminology geared to the younger parishioners.

Positive feedback about the 24 Hours for the Lord event on March 4/5. It was well attended and it was suggested that the parish repeat this event next year, but with some modifications i.e. the hours for confessions.

The council reviewed the Easter Card being sent to the parishioners, giving Mass time schedule, as well as, a listing of the Lenten events scheduled and it was well received.

Easter – greeters were assigned for the 3-night retreat, Palm Sunday Masses, as well as Easter Vigil and Easter morning Masses. Fr. Scott suggested that the Parish Council members wear name tags to encourage a gateway moment for parishioners to inquire about the Council and its purpose.

Fr. Scott also discussed a Mass schedule change to allow the possibility of a one priest parish. It was suggested that Star of the Sea to move the 11am Mass to Noon time. Further discussion is needed.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at Star of the Sea Parish.

Refreshments for the next meeting will be provided by Carol Casey.

Opening Prayer will be provided by Marian Hefron and closing Prayer will be provided by Gene Cote.