

MARY MOTHER OF HOPE
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2016

The Meeting was called to order.

Opening Prayer – Terry Roberts

The following members were in attendance: Deacon Gerry Campion, Deacon Al Mutti, Lee Lyon, Chris Asselin, Chris Rivers, Donna Carter, Cathy Gorham, Don and Jan Ledoux, Terry Roberts, Gil Viteralli, Mary Jane Gauthier and Sylvia Krol. Father Matt was absent.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last Pastoral Council Meeting by Lee Lyon. Sylvia Krol seconded the motion.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Spiritual Life Commission: Jan Ledoux reported that the Harvest Mass went very well. The Altar looked beautiful and the children did a great job. Refreshments were served after this Mass in the Social Center.

A Remembrance Mass was held on Monday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. This Mass was beautiful and was very well attended. Many of the families came back to the Social Center for refreshments. The Parish received many kind comments about this evening from the attendees.

The Advent wreaths will be delivered the Saturday after Thanksgiving and we will meet at 9:30 a.m. to decorate for Advent. The trees will be set up on December 19th and the Church will be fully decorated on December 23rd.

Religious Education Commission

Terry Roberts reported that MMOH hosted the NET Ministries on October 12th for our high schoolers and two other visiting churches. Attendance was good and members of NET presented a diverse program, ending in the church with a short play and prayerful meditation. Many thanks to the parishioners who welcomed these youths into their homes for a sleep over and breakfast the next morning. We have been told that Thank You notes were left by these NET youths with each of their host families.

The MMOH Confirmation Retreat took place on October 22nd in Boston. The students were treated to a Duck tour through the streets of Boston, and on the water of the Charles River. They then traveled to the seminary where Father Matt was schooled and Barrent led us through a tour of the buildings including their beautiful church. The day was concluded with dinner and some pastries supplied by the seminary, and a Mass with Father Matt officiating. Our thanks to Barrent for his very informative tour and to Father for making this retreat possible.

MMOH hosted the Pope Pius Awards on November 3rd, when in addition to our candidate, Lisa Podworski, recipients from several other churches were in attendance and the Bishop officiated. A very

nice reception took place after the Mass and we thank all those who contributed to its success in any way.

The crafts and cards for the shut-ins for Thanksgiving were prepared by our students and were mailed out.

Thank you cards were mailed to all those who contributed to the Religious Education Program. According to Lee Lyon, our parishioners were very generous and for this we are grateful.

To date, Lee has attended 3 Diocesan meetings this month. These meetings dealt with Cory Checks, the formation of youth groups and a safe environment for children.

The first semester for the 7th and 8th grade classes ended on November 13th. High school classes will end November 15th.

The main upcoming event will be the children's Christmas Eve Mass which will be done at the 4:00 p.m. Mass.

Family and Community Life Commission

Cathy Gorham reported that on October 29th, the Family and Community Life Commission held a Trunk or Treat in the Parish parking lot. There were 21 cars and about 125 kids in attendance. Three Costume prizes were handed out. It seems likely that this will be our ongoing Halloween event judging by the attendance and laughter by the participants.

A concert by the Old Post Road Orchestra was held on November 6th. At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Church was filled. We collected \$248.00 for the Parish Pantry in free will donations. We also netted a profit of \$142.00 from selling refreshments. A big Thank You goes out too all of the committee who were able to be there to help.

We have begun rehearsals for our next event. A Christmas Carol will be performed on December 16th, 17th and 18th this year. We have gotten enough people to sign up for all parts but would happily accept more people for caroling. Kudos to our Director and Producer Kathleen Gilhooley.

Women's Club

Mary Jane Gauthier reported that they are working on the Bazaar that will take place on November 19th and 20th.

The mitten tree has been put up in the Social Center Lobby and will be up through Sunday, November 20th.

The tickets for the Christmas Gathering on Sunday, December 4th will be on sale the weekends of November 19th and 20th and November 26th and November 27th.

Men's Club

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for December 10th, and it will be catered. We will work with Cheryl to acquire the names and addresses of the volunteers.

The date for the Corned Beef dinner has not been decided on as of this time. We are looking to get free entertainment for this dinner, if possible, or we will pay \$200.00 maximum.

The Men's Club will be donating \$3,000.00 towards the movie screen in the Parish Hall.

The movie for December will be on the 3rd, and it will feature the Muppet Movie along with a few Christmas features. It was also discussed that we will sponsor a "Movie of the Month" until March or April. We will have a concession at each of the movie nights.

There will be a breakfast buffet at the end of January from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The exact date has not been decided.

The Men's Club will give a monetary Christmas Gift to Church employees.

There will be a Parish Tag Sale in June of 2017. The details have not been finalized at this time.

Finance Commission

Gil Viteralli reported that there was no meeting of the Finance Commission.

Father Matt

Father Matt apologized for not being in attendance, but he did convey some thoughts through a report given to Terry Roberts.

The stained glass window project is moving faster than expected. We hope to have the four windows installed and in place on November 17th – 18th. This will allow the fundraiser called "Windows of Hope" to begin on the Bazaar weekend. Sacred Heart Church will also be advertising that fundraiser and has all the materials to do so. City Councilor, Michael Fenton, has also agreed to help in promoting the fundraiser throughout the community.

I would like to ask all committees/commissions to please begin using the Facility Use Guidelines, as well as the Bulletin Notice and Request Forms from now on. The "GOOD PROBLEM" we have is that there is a lot going on here, and more often than not we are conflicting with the calendars. This provides an organized way of reserving our space and providing for the needs of each event sufficiently. Thank you all for your cooperation on this.

The weekend collection continues to improve, and I am very humbled by the outpouring of support.

As of November 7th, the young people going to Haiti have received \$4,545.00 to support their mission....again I am humbled by this response as are Gabby, Briere and Nathan.

The new media screen has been installed into the social center. The first use will be the Men's Club movie in December. I once again, thank the Men's Club for their generosity.

OLD BUSINESS

A discussion was held about the new "Windows of Hope" drive to help defray the cost of restoring the stained glass windows from Our Lady of Hope. There is a lot of excitement about these beautiful windows.

There was a question regarding a possible Youth Group in the parish. More information will be forthcoming in January.

NEW BUSINESS

The special collection for the students going to Haiti was very successful. A total of \$4,545.00 was collected. A big Thank You to all who contributed.

Barent will be ordained a transitional deacon on Saturday, November 19th at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Church in Westfield.

Gil Viteralli made the motion to end the meeting. Chris Rivers seconded the motion.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Ledoux