

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2017, 6:30p.m.  
St. Joseph's Church "Cry Room"

**Members Present:** Father Joe Giroux, Father Scott Belina, Mary Haas, Greg Paye, Judy Pelkey, Jeff Scharf, Aimee Leroy, Linda Sprague, Cathy Lane-Johnson, Pam Leduc, Deacon Brent Charland, Deacon Nick Haas, Andrew Duso

**Members Excused:** Deacon Bryan Bashaw, Malcolm Miner and Jennifer Champagne

**Others Present:** Marie-Claire D'Arcy

**1. Opening Prayer:** Opening prayer was led by Father Joe. He officially welcomed Deacon Nick Hass and Deacon Brent Charland as new members of the Pastoral Council.

**2. Review/Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the September 18, 2017 meeting were reviewed. A motion was carried to accept the minutes by Judy Pelkey and seconded by Mary Haas. All were in favor to approve the minutes.

### 3. Old Business:

**A. Christian Formation:** *A Family of Faith:* The turnout for the Community Meeting on Sunday, November 19 was very encouraging. Families who attended were engaged with the activities and many provided positive feedback on the event. Father Joe stated there are 14 children enrolled in the First Penance program which will take place the beginning of February.

**B. Christmas Mass Schedule-** This year Christmas falls on a Monday. The following Mass schedule was reviewed again and agreed upon for that weekend and holiday:

**Anticipated Mass Saturday, December 23<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 PM @ St. Joseph's**

**Sunday morning Mass, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 AM @ St. Joseph's**

**Christmas Eve Masses:**

**4:00 PM @ St. Joseph's**

**4:00 PM @ Notre Dame**

**7:00 PM @ St. Helen's Chasm Falls**

**10:00 PM @ Notre Dame**

**Christmas Day Mass:**

**9:30 AM @ St. John Bosco**

**C. Youth Member of Pastoral Council:** No student has stepped forward yet and expressed an interest in the position. A few names were discussed as possible candidates. Father Joe will contact these individuals personally to see if they are interested.

### 4. New Business:

**A. Dinner at St. Helen's (November 11):** The turnout for the dinner was

disappointing but those who did attend were very pleased with the meal. Possible factors in the low attendance may be attributed to the date and/or menu. When the dinner was held previously in November, it was noted there was a decline in attendance also. The change in date (getting darker earlier) and the road conditions may have contributed to the lower numbers. Another factor may have been the menu. Even though the meal served was delicious many people look forward to a turkey dinner they don't have to prepare. It was suggested in the future to return to a date earlier in October and serve the traditional turkey dinner.

**B. Community Thanksgiving Dinner: (November 23)** The dinner will be held again at Holy Family School. There was a concern that the numbers may be lower this year because another organization in Malone was hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner the day before but that doesn't appear to be the case. There are approximately 200 who have signed up so far.

**C. Operation Andrew (November 30):** There are no concrete numbers for those attending yet. The 2 women's groups have volunteered to host the meal.

**D. Advent Giving Trees:** Trees will be in each church this weekend, November 25/26.

**E. Christmas Food Baskets (Distribution December 13):** See #6 "Other" for suggestions.

**F. "The Light Is On For You" (December 19):** Father Joe and Father Scott will be available for Confessions from 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM. Father Joe will contact area priests to help hear confessions of students from Holy Family School that day.

**G. Parish Annual Reports 2016-2017 –** The report was included in the bulletin two weeks ago. No one had any questions regarding the report.

**H. Upcoming Diocesan Capital Campaign:** In 2018 Bishop LaValley is introducing a mega Capital Campaign in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. There has not been a Diocesan Capital Campaign for over 60 years. Presently the goal is set for \$15 million. The pledge period will be several years. Seventy-five percent of what is raised in the parish will remain in the parish. The other twenty-five percent will go back to the Diocese for projects they have approved. Each parish will have input as to what projects the monies will be used for. During the initial year, 2018, the Bishop's Fund will be combined with the Capital Campaign. Each parish will determine when to roll out the Campaign. Three blocks of time are being suggested: Spring, Summer, or Fall. The Council members were asked to begin considering where the monies pledged should be spent within St. Andre's Parish.

## **5. Proposed Pastoral Plan:**

**A. Resubmitted Plan unchanged (September 20):** Nothing new to report from the Diocese.

**B. Meeting with Bishop LaValley (October 12):** Bishop LaValley met with Linda

Sprague, Vern Williams, Marge Perry, Molly McKee, Brent Charland, Father Scott and Father Joe for 2 hours. Those who attended were given the opportunity to voice their concerns and/or support for the Pastoral Plan. All agreed it was a productive meeting that will hopefully mend fences and bring parishioners together as we go forward.

**C. Next: Review by Diocesan Living Stones Planning Committee:** Father Joe is unsure as to when the Living Stones Planning Committee will be meeting to discuss the proposed plan.

**D. Final: Decision by Bishop LaValley-** After Father Joe receives word from Bishop LaValley, he will contact the Pastoral Council members as to the outcome of the decision.

**6. Other:** A parishioner letter was read to the Council by Judy Pelkey. Several positive recommendations were made in the letter: (1) Publish prayers in the bulletin that focus on issues people are dealing with: loss of a spouse, addiction, cancer, single parent families, loneliness etc. Connect to them. (2) Ideas for Christmas baskets: include a Mass schedule, a Christmas blessing, an invitation for children to be part of the Christmas pageant. (3) Embrace Holy Family School and promote it. (4) Capitalize on the involvement of families enrolled in the “Family of Faith” program. Include the families in the Mass as readers, greeters, ushers, presenting the gifts. Get the youth involved in their Church.

**7. Next meeting:** Monday, January 15, 2018 at 6:30. Location: to be determined.

**8. Closing Prayer:** Closing prayer was led by Father Joe.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aimee Leroy  
Secretary