

St. Leo Parish Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2019

Present: Father Grosso, Christine Green, Judy Sarnelle, Denise Esposito, Charlene Heffernan, Joe Baranowski, Raffaella Iovieno, Mike Nicholson, Mike Carlon, Ann Hogan, Marie Cordeiro, John Kennedy, Brenda Jegier, Chip Howe and Lisa Musilli.

Mike Nicholson called the meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. Fr. Grosso opened with a prayer. The minutes of the February meeting were accepted unanimously.

Pastor's Comments

- Father Grosso gave the council an update on the We Stand With Christ campaign. The campaign is going along well thanks in large part to the very active committee of St. Leo volunteers who he is especially grateful for. On April 28th a coffee hour will be held to inform parishioners about the campaign and answer questions.
- Father is currently working on his Easter letter that will be sent out to all families. Included in it will be information regarding the Lenten Reconciliation service that will be held on April 15th. Confession will be heard at three different parishes within each deanery from 3pm until 9pm that evening. Our deanery will offer confession at Sacred Heart, Holy Name and St. Cecilia parishes.
- Divine Mercy Sunday will be April 28th. Service will be at 3:00pm.
- Rehearsal for the Easter Triduum and Easter Sunday will be April 15th in the evening
- Father concluded his report by informing the diocese of several personnel changes, especially that a new pastor has been named at the newly combined St. Cecilia/St. Gabriel parish.

Reports

Committee Reports

Youth Group

- The Lord & Taylor fundraiser netted \$400 – a great fundraiser for the Youth Group!
- The weekend of April 13/14 Easter flowers will be for sale
- The evening of April 13th will be the annual 'lock-in' where the group will stay overnight. Events will include Stations of the Cross, Lenten discussions and fellowship.
- Fifteen seniors will be graduating this year – the date of the Mass and celebration luncheon or dinner is yet to be determined

Seniors

- The bake sale was a nice success and netted \$1,300.
- The March meeting will include a corned beef lunch and a presentation from Fr. Mollenhauer of St. James in Stratford regarding pilgrimages.

- The April meeting will welcome a representative from Cobb's Bread and in May members will enjoy a pictorial presentation regarding the history of Stamford and a trip to the Sicilian Tenors at Aqua Turf is also planned
- Once again, membership continues to be on the rise

Social Concerns

- Brenda reported on the clothing drive – March 30th from 9am until 1pm. They will be paying particular attention this year to the volume of clothes and where the clothes are delivered. Although they are happy with Catholic Charities of Patterson, NJ, they are looking into other sites more local sites, but it is difficult because of the large amount of clothing St. Leo collects – only certain places will accept that many clothes.
- The Spring food drive will begin the weekend of 3/16-3/17 with donations returned the following weekend.
- Brenda concluded by reporting that they were thrilled to recruit 4 new families to the committee during their 'recruitment drive' at the parish coffee hour. Due to the success they plan on putting out a table at more coffee hours throughout the year.

Ex Officio Reports

Religious Education

- First Reconciliation was held on Monday, March 11th. Very nice service.
- The retreat for the First Communicants will be held on Saturday, April 27th
- 8th graders will be taken to confession for Lent on March 19th
- All classes are going along well and a Lenten food collection was a success.

Music Ministry/Liturgy

- Request for altar servers and ministers is out for Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter. It is a difficult week to 'staff' this year as it is vacation week.

New Business and Miscellany

John Kennedy brought up the need for more food at the soup kitchen on certain days. Discussion was had regarding how difficult it is to predict the number of clients that would be present. Fr. Grosso assured John and the council that he supports the work 100% and is fine with them purchasing and ordering more to serve the kitchen with.

Denise reminded the council on the introduction of the new Liturgical Norms sent down from the diocese. All EHMHC and lectors are asked to do one on-line session as well as one face-to-face session here at St. Leo on Wednesday, March 20th at 7:30pm and urged people to sign up. The norms have also been distributed to all ministers to look over.

Father Grosso will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, May 19 with a Mass at noon followed by a reception in the Parish Hall – all are invited and welcome.

John Kennedy updated the council on the progress of the We Stand with Christ Campaign. St. Leo goal is \$1.7 million and we have \$230K pledged so far. Discussion was had about how pledge amount 'asks' were arrived at. Father Grosso said that the diocese looked at the 'history of generosity' and generated a figure from that.

The April meeting will be on April 22nd at 7:30pm.
Fr. Grosso led the council in a concluding prayer.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Green
Council Secretary