

St. Leo Parish Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2020

Present: Father Grosso, Mike Nicholson, Christine Green, Ann Hogan, John Kennedy, Chip Howe, Denise Esposito, Joe Baranowski, Sandy Schwoerer, Brenda Jegier, Judy Sarnelle, Eileen Towne, Mike Carlon, Marie Cordeiro and Anthony Marsella.

Mike Nicholson called the meeting was called to order at 7:28pm. Fr. Grosso opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Comments

- Father Grosso reported that Annual Catholic Appeal will officially begin this weekend. The St. Leo goal this year is \$293,000 which is 10% lower than the previous ACA goal due to the fact that the diocese is coming off of the 'We Stand With Christ' capital campaign which was only last year and asked for substantial donations from each parishioner.
- Father also informed the council that the Diocese as a whole has been looking over the practice of eulogies at funeral Masses. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal they are not allowed, however in deference to the wishes of some families they are allowed – this is a parish by parish decision. Bishop Caggiano respects that and will stand with his pastors and their decisions however he did ask for each pastor to let him know what the practice is at their parishes. Fr. Grosso also mentioned that he is working on something for our bulletin so that the parishioners can know what the St. Leo policy is – a eulogy is allowed by one person.

Reports

Committee Reports

Youth Group

- Eileen reported that the group made door decorations for the residents at Brighton Gardens for Valentine's Day
- The schedule of events for now through the end of the year was in the most recent bulletin

Seniors

- Judy Sarnelle reported that the Christmas luncheon at Giovanni's was a big success with 75 people in attendance. The raffles were a big hit as was the 50-50 chance.

- The January meeting is Tuesday, January 21st. A representative will speak regarding the upcoming federal census.
- The February meeting will take place on February 18th – all are encouraged to wear red. An ice cream social will also take place at the meeting – a new program event that all look forward to.
- A trip to Gavin's Irish Country Inn in E. Durham, NY will be in March in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Social Concerns

- The Thanksgiving Dinner went off very successfully with thanks to Joe Romano for all his years of service to the event and thanks to Carol Kennedy for taking it on going forward. Although there were some slight glitches with some aspects of the program many, many people who would have otherwise not had a Thanksgiving meal did due to the hard work of so many. Next year will go even smoother 😊
- Thanks to all parishioners for giving over 1,000 gifts and 2,000 toiletries towards the Giving Trees. New organizations in need joined this year, and all were taken care of. Thanks again to Fr. Grosso for his support and constant announcements from the pulpit that helped make it a big success.
- The spring food drive will be in March or April and Vicki Roti will be chairing the event.

Ex Officio Reports

Religious Education

- The start of the new year brings the focus on First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation. A parents' meeting was held for the parents of the 41 children receiving the sacraments.
- The diocesan mandated face to face enrichment sessions for all catechists have been completed and on-line study will begin in February.

Music Ministry/Liturgy

- The Lessons and Carols concert in December was a big success – thanks to all who came and participated.
- The choirs are preparing for Lent and Holy Week
- Sunday, February 16th St. Leo will host a concert focusing on Broadway particularly the work of Stephen Sondheim – all are welcome!

- The Anniversary Mass will be on February 9th, the Mardi Gras dinner will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, February 25th at 6:30pm – a little earlier to accommodate families.
- February 26th will bring us to Ash Wednesday and then the Lenten season.
- Denise also reported that she went to a conference at the diocese for The Leadership Institute – an office at the diocese that supports the parishes in their work in continuing education and evangelization. A discussion was had regarding the good work that the institute does, and it was agreed that the institute’s website address should be in the bulletin to greater publicize their work.

New Business and Miscellany

- Joe Baranowski and Father Grosso gave an update on the new heating system. It looks like we are very close to being officially able to begin the work by May 1st. Bids are all in and diocesan meetings are all concluded. What remains is for the Bishop to sign the final contract and the contractors/workmen to attend Safe Environments training. Joe Baranowski was thanked for his tireless work on this project and endless hours of sharing his expertise.
- John Kennedy suggested that perhaps a ‘captain’ of the ushers be assigned so that there isn’t a scramble at every Mass. This person would make sure that each Mass has a designated person to oversee the collection. All agreed this is a great idea. John had someone in mind and will approach him shortly.
- Discussion was had regarding social media and what sites St. Leo should have a presence on as well as better ways to reach out to the young people of the parish to get them involved
- Finally, Ann Hogan was thanked for successfully putting together a schedule of teams to staff the twice monthly coffee hours following the 10am Mass

The February meeting will be on February 17th at 7:30 pm.

Fr. Grosso led the council in a concluding prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Green
Council Secretary