



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

September 7, 2017

MINUTES

A meeting of the St. Mary of the Lake Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was held on Thursday, September 7, 2017, from 6:30-8:30 PM, at Father Nallin Hall, Nativity BVM Parish, in Tunkhannock. Present were: Father Pat Albert, Pastor; Deacon Ray Pieretti; Bernie Garvey, Chair; Ellie Dougherty; Julia Franko; Mary Lou Franko; Marie Packer; Jen Sinkler; Theresa Zdaniewicz; and Bill Waters, Secretary. Not present were: Dick Schwoebel, Business Manager; Don Ames; Bill Jones; Elaine Quinn; Dorothy Trauger, Pat Wall. This was a joint meeting with the Nativity Parish Pastoral Council. A number of members of the Nativity Pastoral Council were present.

1. The meeting was called to order by Father Pat.
2. Father Pat led the opening prayer.
3. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the process of developing Parish Pastoral Plans for our two parishes. Father Pat stressed the need for Parish Pastoral Planning, in which the clergy and laity collaboratively develop long-term goals, objectives, and activities for each parish. The Parish Pastoral Plans will serve as blueprints to move the parishes forward in our present era where there are fewer priests and the laity are being called to serve as Servant Leaders. Father Pat introduced Mary Ann Paulukonis, Consultant from the Diocese of Scranton, who will assist us in developing our plans.

4. Ms. Paulukonis provided the Parish Pastoral Councils with an introduction to the process of Parish Pastoral Planning:
 - a. Saint Mary of the Lake and Nativity BVM are “linked” parishes. This means that we are separate parishes, but share resources. For example, St Mary and Nativity share personnel (Pastor, Pastoral Associate, Business Manager, and Secretary), physical space (Office and Rectory), and some ministries and liturgies (Digital Disciples, Bereavement Mass). This arrangement permits each parish to function independently while benefitting from sharing resources with a neighboring parish.
 - b. Ms. Paulukonis distributed the document “Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered - A Pastoral Vision for the Diocese of Scranton”, authored by Bishop Bambera. This document represents the Bishop’s plan for how parishes should operate under his leadership.
 - c. Ms. Paulukonis stated that our parishes would be developing separate plans, but could share resources as appropriate.
 - d. Ms. Paulukonis stated that the bishop is emphasizing the concept of Servant Leadership. Under this concept, we are all servants first. Through this service and through the inspiration of our Faith, we develop the leadership skills to assist our parishes in moving forward in accordance with our Faith. Servant Leadership has been envisioned as encompassing four interconnected parts: Worship, Service, Word, and Community.
 - e. Ms. Paulukonis stated that the Bishop is emphasizing the need for Parish Pastoral Councils to plan for the future, rather than just reacting or keeping the status quo.
 - f. Ms. Paulukonis reviewed with the group Section One (Background) and the beginning of Section Two (Vision) from the document, through page 16. Members provided examples of how our two parishes are currently putting into practice the Mission and Ministry of Jesus Christ. Parishes need to promote the concept of community because God resides in us as a people, and the Church needs all of our gifts.
 - g. Ms. Paulukonis stated that prior to beginning the development of our plans, we need to understand the document through page 54. Members need to read these sections of the document independently. We are hoping to complete this section of the process by March, 2018, when Ms. Paulkonis will return to assist us in beginning the next stage.

5. Next Meetings:

- a. The next regular meeting of the Saint Mary of the Lake Parish Pastoral Council was scheduled for Thursday, September 28, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall.
- b. The next joint Parish Council Meeting with Nativity for the purpose of Parish Pastoral Planning was scheduled for Thursday, October 19, at 6:30 PM at Saint Mary Parish Hall.

6. Deacon Ray led the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Waters, Secretary