

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting March 14, 2016



In Attendance

Father David, Jesse Yap, Jack O'Melia, Lee Larchevesque, Samantha Lusniak, Kathy Coyne, Neil Dennehy, Missy Ely, Mary Ann Holowinko, Joe Licek.

Kathy Coyne led the Council in prayer.

Minutes for the January meeting were approved.

Pancake Breakfast

Council officially and warmly congratulated Lee on a successful pancake breakfast. A new attendance record was set, with 200-250 people attending. Leftover food was delivered to the homeless shelter. The parish cleared \$584.

The Fish Feast coming Friday March 18, expect 100 adults and 20 children to attend.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Joe's Party

- Sunday April 3, 2016. Mass will be at 11 with party after from 12-2.
- We could have more than 200 people.
- Finger food will be served with Italian pastries donated by Angela Mia.
- The parish will be encouraged to write letters expressing their appreciation and memories of Fr. Joe to be read privately or publicly. If someone wishes they can do a witness talk.
- We will raise money for a parish gift.
- There will be signup sheets to allow parishioners to help in various ways.
- Greg Battersby will put together a slideshow to be shown at the party. He is asking for photos to be included. He will also take videos of those that want to record a message for Fr. Joe.

Pastoral Planning

Committee made up of Dan Loch, Missy Ely, Joe O'Callaghan, Fr. Dave, Fr. Rojin, and Kathy Coyne.

A Parish Snapshot and Financial Report was received at the diocesan meeting Saturday March 12.

The snapshot showed 5 years of data that showed the following:

- Increase in baptisms but large decrease in First Eucharist, Confirmations, and marriages.
- Deaths on the rise.
- Numbers reflect similar patterns in the diocese overall.
- Mass attendance is better than diocese average.
- Religious education attendance is down.
- We would like to get attendance numbers from Cranbury School to see if attendance numbers are similar.
- Catholic Appeal - we have always gone over goal and look to do again. We have been consistently above the diocese average.

Financials covered 3 years of data and showed the following:

- Offertory has had a small drop over 3 years.
- Expenses are down a small amount while overall diocese expenses have risen.

- Surplus is rising, and our cash is stable to up small.
- Our debt is minimal.

Self-Assessment

Signs of growth – our volunteers, the number social events, higher attendance at events

Greatest strength - People of the parish, Social concerns, AA program

Greatest Concern - Aging of parish, including leadership/volunteers, drop-off parents, changing demographics.

Council members encouraged to take questions home to fill out on their own.

Disciple Maker Index 396 surveys. We believe that will be higher than average.

Elections

Joe presented spreadsheet of members spelling out who can be re-elected, and who can also serve on the committee. We need people who will be here next year so they can run it next year. Nominations run first two weekends after Easter. The election is held the following two weekends, and winners are commissioned at Pentecost.

Committee: Joe L, Jack O, Samantha L, Lee L, Neil D, Maryanne H, Jeff K. Joe will approach Jeff about chairing the committee.

Jack updated council on efforts for new website.

Fr. David concluded the meeting at 8:29 with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack O'Melia

Pastoral Council Secretary