

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/ACTIONS
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
January 4, 2017**

Old Business

In follow-up to the November meeting, three new members were introduced (Becky Hollen, Alpha coordinator; Jill Larger, School Advisory Board representative; Jim Martin, director of Parish School of Religion); Christmas cards signed "Your Parish Family" were mailed to 12 home-bound parishioners; and a list of parish groups was emailed to the Council members with the request that any needed changes be submitted. The pictures of Council members will be retaken at the February meeting; possible uses are posting in the Gathering Space and on the website as well as highlighting Council members in the weekly bulletin and "The News from the Pews."

Fr. Connolly wants the Council to push forward and do more discernment about the parish needs and the role of the Parish Pastoral Council in meeting them. There was discussion that the evaluation presented at the November meeting was limited to responses from five members and wider feedback may be beneficial. Ways to involve the parish at large were suggested. A focus group composed of Jim Martin, Mark O'Loughlin, Kathy Maggied, Patty Bond, Carlene Hamilton and Michael Case will work on an action plan.

Organization Reportse

Favorable comments have been received on the Christmas decorations in the worship space and surrounding areas.

The Council members who participated in the Novena for Our Nation were thanked.

Written reports were supplemented with oral comments.

The 2017 "News from the Pews" Production Schedule listed the deadline for Issue 1 (Lent) is January 23, with February 17 the goal for the delivery in home and by email blast. Dates for Issue 2 (Pentecost) are: submissions due April 24 and delivery on May 19.

The Athletic Association will sponsor an adult dance on February 4 with the goal of building community as well as providing funds toward repaving the drive and parking areas. Proceeds from the Association's third annual charity basketball game will be donated toward the drive and parking areas, also. Basketball season is underway and sign-ups for spring sports will open on the web site the week of January 9. St. Cecilia will offer baseball and softball and will work with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish for a track program.

Most of the computers in the parish office have been replaced with the same make and model which run Windows 7 and can be upgraded with more RAM as needed. There are backups for the fax machine and network printer which can be used if either main item goes down or is unavailable. Redundancy has been added to the roles of individuals supporting the parish with more than one person designated as able to post on Facebook, emails, and the website. The new ministry scheduling program has been delegated so that each of the ministry heads has a lead role in managing the schedule and several people are able to run the program and have control over all of the functions. Personal requests for unavailable dates, need for substitutes, email reminders are among the features of this program. A new Twitter account has been created and users can follow it @stceciliach. Content as well as suggestions for daily posts are sought. Similar software for scheduling parish events would be useful.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a breakfast to support seminarians and a Red Cross blood drive this month.

Twelve people have registered for Alpha with three more weeks to recruit. Participants do not have to be parishioners, but include anyone who is interested in who Jesus is.

A facility for rehab as well as residential services for the elderly is interested in property on Norton Road across the street from St. Cecilia property. Any concerns about traffic, congestion, services should be voiced.

Prayers for those preparing for reception of the Sacraments of Initiation are requested.

The School Advisory Board is looking at new playground equipment to replace that which is need of repair.

The reception for Jackie Mulholland who is retiring from employment in the parish office is scheduled for January 14 following the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

The Advent Giving Tree program ended with no expenses from the church budget. Some adjustments to the number committed to Catholic Social Services were made to accommodate an anticipated higher need for St. Cecilia families. A total of 443 gifts were distributed as follows: Catholic Social Services, 200; Columbus Health Care Center, 100; School/PSR and Pre-school, 93 (13 families/31 children); money envelopes, 50. The Bishop Ready High School girls' basketball team adopted another PSR family with three children (request from family had been received late). Nine gifts were not returned. A parishioner purchased the outstanding gifts for a total of \$222.33.

On Sunday, December 18, the Social Committee held a reception after the Lessons and Carols program. There were 113 people attending, including the choir and committee members. The total cost for the refreshments and serving items was \$188.40 which was similar to last year's costs.

The agenda for the November meeting of the Faith Life Committee was open, with the intent to assess some alternative activities of focus for the future. Most of the ideas were around ways to engage the parents of PSR students in Grades 3-7 and the parents of St. Cecilia School – outside of sports, which is a good community builder, but perhaps not as effective in fostering parish engagement and faith formation. The need to better reach young adults at the age before marriage or newly married to offer some community-building events is another area of interest.

The high school youth group is on break and will start up again on January 22 to go to Ronald McDonald House to cook and serve lunch to the families staying there. Then they will move on to a series from Sticky Faith entitled, "Can I Ask That?," covering tough questions about God. Over 30 students in the Edge middle school youth group helped assemble and double-check the food baskets and stayed for the annual Edge Christmas party. The group will get together for a social day on January 14 for an afternoon of bowling followed by the 5:00 p.m. Mass. The eighth grade students will take part in the Confirmation retreat on Saturday, January 28. Bosco Bash will take place on February 11 at St. Timothy Church. The next Parents Night Outs are January 20 and February 24.

The Religious Education Office report included class schedules, due dates for Sacramental preparation paper work, dates for receiving Sacraments. Ten children in Grades 3 and above who had not received the age-appropriate Sacraments of Initiation received them on Saturday, December 17.

There are currently nine candidates continuing in RCIA who are at various levels in the discernment process. The list of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who are taking Holy Communion to the sick is being updated. Bible study on St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians is scheduled to begin the end of April. Positive comments on Walking with Purpose continue. Training for those who have offered to help with Reboot! Live! continues; this event will be held on Wednesday, March 29, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The West Deanery met on November 29 and adopted a procedure to shorten length of the meetings by sending reports to each other. Christmas Mass schedules were sent to each parish. The Bishop will be giving talks throughout the Diocese on the Encyclical, *Laudato Si*. Most likely he will use Bishop Ready High School as one of his venues. The next meeting of the West Deanery will be on January 24 at St. Cecilia Church.

The Prison Ministry has six or seven new volunteers approved by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to start going to the Orient Corrections Reception Center. A meeting of new and old volunteers is expected to firm up the team selections and plans for structure and content of the sessions.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 1, 2017**.