

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION/ACTIONS
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
St. Cecilia Church
December 3, 2014**

In response to a request by a parishioner a kneeler will be placed in the Meditation Room.

The Faith Life Committee is planning a Bible Study program on the Psalms beginning in January; have scheduled a night of reflection February 24 as a prelude to a parish mission in the fall of 2015 or spring of 2016; is considering testing a pilot program toward a parish lending library; will meet with a group of men interested in forming a Men's Fellowship Group. Thirteen parishioners from St. Cecilia participated in the Intentional Disciples meeting at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on November 14 and 15. There was discussion at the November 11 meeting about the Sacred Scripture Sharing sessions on Sunday mornings, particularly about focusing on content for learning or on spiritual reflection.

The School Advisory Board update stated that the Veterans Day ceremony was appreciated by the veterans and their families and provided hands-on learning experience for the students. Board members reviewed the current dress code and agreed to allow the addition of ties to be worn with white dress shirts for the boys. Preschool is looking for ideas for a spring fundraiser; the flower sales didn't go well this past spring. Board members discussed the difficulty in recruiting parent volunteers for events, especially for PTO projects and discussed the possibility of reinstating mandatory volunteer hours for school families. New marketing materials are being developed to promote the school. Brochures, thank you notes, and welcome folders for inquiring parents are in the process of being printed. Interviews of vendors are being conducted to create and maintain a new school website to better represent our school to the public.

The EDGE youth group met twice in November; 45 students went to see the movie "When the Game Stands Tall," followed by ice cream and conversation at Dairy Queen. At a Thanksgiving celebration they talked about the importance of being thankful to God in all circumstances of their lives. The group will help assemble food baskets for the needy and follow that with the annual Christmas party. About 400 middle school youth from throughout the Diocese are expected for the Bosco Bash to be held at St. Cecilia on January 31.

The second Parents Night Out program (elementary youth group) was November 14, with 59 children learning the story of David and Goliath and how we can all defeat giants as long as we have faith and trust in God. The next scheduled "PNO" is January 16.

Fr. Connolly's written report included St. Cecilia Feast Day (expressed appreciation to the Social and Bereavement Committees for the reception); the Thanksgiving morning Mass; Veterans Day ceremony and museum hosted by the school; placement of missalettes and *Worship* hymnals in the pews; parish Facebook page; updating of computers in the parish office; Christmas basket program, Advent Penance Service; the possibility of Midnight Mass on December 31 to start the new year in prayer; as well as change in maintenance staff and Father's request for a meeting with the Athletic Association. Some people have approached him about the possibility of a trip to Philadelphia during the Synod on the Family and he has talked with pastors of other parishes about their plans and interest. Email addresses for parishioners have been entered, but this cannot be activated until some issues with the computer system have been worked out. The administrator (Steve Brezny) or monitor (Katie Wohrle) must approve all material to be posted on the parish Facebook page.

The parish is struggling financially and there is a lack of volunteers for many parish activities (this had been addressed by the School Advisory Board, also). The "Bingo Results" from July 2013 to November 2014 showed an average profit per night of slightly over \$1,000. Other sources of income are needed; some suggestions were increasing offertory collections, ongoing raffles.