

MARY, QUEEN OF MARTYRS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Fr. Joe Raeke, Deacon Dick Cussen, Deacon Jonathon Jones, Liz Lauzon, Gini Maccaferri, Dan Ryan, Dave Noyes, Paul Poremski, Joan Ashman

Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe

REVIEW

Religious Education Activities

Lock In – 14 junior high school students participated in the overnight event, with high school students assisting Patsy and getting service hours; a lot of activities and fun. Fr. Michael and other adults also helped out.

First Graders' Retreat Day – was held at Our Lady of Lourdes for the First Communion Prep 1 children, was 4-5 hours, with parents participating; children and parents all had fun – included arts and crafts and family photographs; the children also prayed quietly in church. A very successful event.

Book Discussion

The *Holy Moments* book which was distributed at the Christmas Masses was discussed on February 5 at Our Lady of Lourdes; about 20 people attended, and the small group discussions were very effective and encouraged fellowship; this is what we should be doing as a parish – sharing faith. Molly Garcia, Deacon Dick, and Ann Cussen did a great job of planning and presenting the meeting. Also: the parish has a YouTube channel - [\(23\) Plymouth Carver Collaborative - YouTube](#).

ASH WEDNESDAY/LENT

Ash Wednesday Masses

All four Masses were very well-attended and included many families. It is noted that certain occasions, such as Ash Wednesday, Easter and Christmas, bring many people to Mass who we don't often see otherwise. Fr. Joe asks that we all think about ways to bring these folks to Mass on a more regular basis, and we will discuss at a future meeting.

Communion and Ashes to Nursing Home Residents

Thanks to those who brought Ashes on Wednesday to our seven area nursing homes and to those who are homebound, and who also bring Communion to them each week. It's a wonderful way to keep those who cannot get to church connected with their faith and with the parish community.

Stations of the Cross will be held at the three churches on a rotating basis during Lent.

Penance Service

The Penance Service will be held on March 30th at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Kateri. Ann Cussen, Dave Noyes, and the parish prayer committee are promoting the service in order to encourage a good turnout.

UPDATE

Office Cards

The card design has been finalized by Kathy and they look great. Fr. Joe showed a sample, and cards will be made for clergy and staff.

Saint Kateri

Renovation plans are coming along; Fr. Joe has met with Dave McGrath and the architect. There will be a small lift installed that will allow for transport of food bags from the basement to the upper level for the Food Pantry – no more lugging heavy bags up the stairs. In about two weeks, drawings will be available for the general contractor, who will go before the Town to obtain permits. Hopefully the work will start in June.

Social Justice Meeting on Human Trafficking: March 8th

The Social Justice Ministry is hosting a presentation – Human Trafficking: Modern Slavery - on March 8 by Sr. Betsy Goodwin, OSF and Sr. Marilyn McGoldrick ,CSJ who have worked for years to raise awareness about human trafficking and what individuals can do to stop it. The presentation will be held at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lower Church.

On April 22, the parish will co-sponsor a presentation, along with the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office and the Plymouth Police Department, by Jasmine Grace, a trafficking survivor. The event will be held at Plymouth North High School.

A Holy Hour will be held on March 19, and a documentary about human trafficking, *Not My Life*, will be shown on June 10 at St. Peter's after the 4:00 p.m. Mass.

There are flyers and posters at each of the three churches advertising these events.

Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Day Dinner: March 18th

Both K of C Councils are working together to host the dinner with music which will be held at the Parish Hall at St. Peter's. This year the event will be catered and tickets sold in advance so that an exact count can be made. Help is needed to sell the tickets following Masses at the three churches....sales will start this weekend (Feb 25/26.)

FUTURE DIRECTIONS/CONCERNS

Religious Education Enhancement

Patsy is doing a terrific job with new activities and creative ideas. There is a need to continue to get parents more involved, to focus on doing more with families, and to attract younger people in general as well as their children. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Family Masses

Fr. Joe, Patsy, and Fr. Michael will strategize on how to build a Family Mass into the regular schedule on a rotating basis at the three churches, most likely starting in the September timeframe. There are several considerations, including logistics and priest scheduling. More to come on this.

Additional Youth Activities

A Family Game Night had been mentioned in the past. All are asked to think about what else we might do.

Refugees

In order not to lose touch with the needs of the local refugees, Dave will reach out to the case workers (Deacon Dick will ask Ann to provide Dave with the names and contact information) to identify what their needs are and how we as a parish can support them. Dave will notify the rest of the Council by email of what we can do. Thank you Dave!

Pastoral Plan focus as we go forward

A flyer has been printed up that captures the progress to date on the 2020-2023 Pastoral Plan. Members are asked to read the flyer and be prepared to talk at the next meeting about next steps and what more we have to do.

MEMBERS' CONCERNS

Reminders: Liturgy of the Hours will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings through March 28 on a rotating schedule among the three churches. The first service was held on Tuesday, February 21 at St. Peter's. Also – Theology on Tap featuring Fr. Sean Connor will be held at the New World Tavern on Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Weekday Mass at St. Peter's (Wednesday and Saturday) is now held in the Chapel in the Lower Church – this is a nice smaller and warmer space for prayer.

Closing Prayer – Gini Maccaferri

Thanks to Gini for sharing the text of the prayer with us: *"When you opened your eyes this morning, God had already taken care of every unfolding detail in your day. He covered each corner of it with His grace...touched His love into every moment...and tenderly wrapped it with the quiet strength your heart would need. I pray He shows you today how much He cares for you and that nothing will ever separate you from His love. Amen"*

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM at St. Peter's Parish Center

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ashman, Parish Pastoral Council Secretary

(Note: areas needing follow-up are highlighted)