

St. Leo Parish Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2020

Present: Father Grosso, Denise Esposito, Christine Green, Marie Cordeiro, Ann Hogan, Mike Carlon, Sandy Schwoerer, , Mike Nicholson, Carol Kennedy, Joe Baranowski, John Kennedy, Chip Howe, and Raffaele Iovieno.

Meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconference.

Mike Nicholson called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Fr. Grosso opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Comments

- Fr. Grosso opened the meeting by sharing with the council that the Faith Direct credit card system for donations has been going very well and that in fact St. Leo has picked up some additional on-line givers.
- There was a meeting with Bishop Caggiano of all the pastors of the diocese on November 12th. The Bishop reiterated the health and safety regulations and reminded the pastors of the importance of vigilance and adhering to these rules as the parishioners' safety is the number one priority.
- Fr. Grosso has added a third daily Mass. He reminded the council of the disinfecting and cleaning that must take place after each gathering in the church – that, combined with the fact that Father has no other priests here with him, makes it difficult to add even more Masses. Ann Hogan asked Father if we could have additional Christmas Eve Masses as the Bishop gave special permission this year to begin at 2pm for the vigil but Father said there are only so many he can say so we will stick with the five scheduled for Christmas Eve/Christmas.

- Reports

- Committee Reports

- *Youth Group*

- Denise Esposito reported that the group has been meeting outside and via Zoom call. They are doing the best they can and will continue to move along.

Seniors

- The council received no report as there are no meetings, but Judy Sarnelle has been keeping in touch with the members. Father asked that we remember to keep all the members in our prayers.

Social Concerns

- Carol Kennedy was introduced as the new head of the Social Concerns committee – thank you and welcome!
- Carol reported that the food drive on October 24th had a very good turnout and thanked Vicki Roti for organizing. New Covenant House thanked us for the excellent donations of food that are so desperately needed.
- The Thanksgiving meal has all the food accounted for due to the generosity of so many here at St. Leo. Food will be prepared, and 125 guests will be given ‘to-go’ containers and the Religious Ed students made goody bags.
- The Christmas Gift Card Collection is going well – so far they have 100 cards and would love to be able to collect 250-300 in total.
- Carol concluded her report by saying that the committee is planning on re-grouping in January and planning out 2021.

Ex Officio Reports

Religious Education

- Denise Esposito reported that classes have been progressing – most of the students are home on self-study but said that those that come once a month have been having a great experience. Sandy Schwoerer (council member and middle school catechist) reported that the middle school program (which still meets once a week in person) is going well.
- The diocese has just released its new Confirmation directives. The age for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation has been lowered to spring of 6th grade/fall of 7th. The parishes have three years to be in compliance and re-work the curriculum.

Music Ministry/Liturgy

- Denise Esposito reported that the reservation system for Masses is going along well and reported that the 5pm Saturday vigil and the 10am Mass on Sunday are usually sold out.
- Christmas Mass reservations will be live on December 21st.

New Business and Miscellany

John Kennedy asked Father Grosso if St. Leo had received its ACA goal figure yet. Father Grosso reported that since our one very large donor has moved out of the parish, he is expecting it to be lower. He also reported that St. Leo has historically had the highest ACA, cathedraticum, and We Stand with Christ goals of all the parishes in Stamford.

Finally, Father shared with the council that St. Leo Parish has given \$5,000 to St. Mary Parish in Stamford to help them pay expenses through these very difficult financial times

Father Grosso led all in the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Green
Council Secretary