

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINUTES ST. JOHN PAUL 9/19/16

Members present: Father Steve, Barb Armata, Deacon Greg, Mary Whitman, Mary Ann Wojtaszek, Karen Ketcham, and Robin Loughman.

Opening prayer was given by Father Steve.

Previous meeting's minutes were accepted.

Elections: Barb and Mary will continue to serve at co-chairs. Robin will continue to serve as secretary, with Karen volunteering to be back-up secretary.

Report on upcoming Mission with Father Gary Caster, Sept. 25-28: The big banner on route 8 is up. The word has been sent out to various online outlets, The Catholic Mirror, channel 22, area church bulletins. Posters have gone out to area businesses and parishes. Robin will send home the flyers with St. Stan's students and ask for it to go on the school Facebook page.

The Hospitality Committee is working on a reception on Wednesday after the last service.

There was a discussion on a free-will offering vs. passing the basket. Mary said Father Gary had no preference and is leaving it up to the parish. It was decided that there would be a formal collection on Wednesday evening. We will also leave mission envelopes in the pews, so people who won't be there on Wednesday can make an offering by putting it in the collection basket on a following weekend, or by mailing it in.

Upcoming events: As previously noted, October Rosary Devotions on Fridays, 6 pm, and St. Stan's. Father Steve will ask Father Rob about attending to do the Benediction and possibly a short reflection.

October will be our last Year of Mercy Mass, because in November All Souls Day falls on the first Wednesday. The Mass that day will be the Mass of Remembrance for parishioners who have passed away in the past year. This Mass will be at 7 pm at Notre Dame. Like last year, there will be electric candles lit for each person as the names are read. Mary said she would make sure everything is taken care of for this.

Year of Mercy events: Divine Mercy Veneration on Fridays, 2:30 pm at St. Stans's; Wednesday morning after morning Mass at Notre Dame. The last First Wednesday Mass will be at St. Stan's October 5th, at 6 pm, preceded by confessions at 5:30.

Lady of Fatima Statue: There was a very good turnout for this event. Father noted there were at least 150 people at the morning Mass when the statue was displayed. The statue is a replica of the one in Fatima. It was in North Adams the previous weekend, and we had it for the morning on September 14th.

Mary suggested that the parish look into a pilgrimage to the Blue Army headquarters in Washington NJ to visit their Fatima Shrine, plus other shrines in the area. Since First Choice

Tours still has our deposit from the last pilgrimage which was cancelled, Mary will check with them to see what might be arranged.

First Holy Communion will be May 7th, and Confirmation May 23rd with the Bishop. Mary suggested we consider doing an International Rosary in May for our Blessed Mother. We did one a couple years ago in October for the month of the Rosary, and it was well-received. However, it was decided last year to concentrate on the Mission instead. This will be discussed at a later meeting. Mary suggested all of us ask someone to join a parish committee. We've put it in the bulletins, but sometimes it takes a personal touch.

Welcome to Father Rob Miskell, who has been assigned to our parish for one year. Father Steve said he will be focusing on sacramental ministry.

Closing prayer was given by Deacon Greg and the meeting adjourned at 6:45.

Next meeting: Monday October 24th, 6 pm, in Kolbe Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Loughman