

**Church of St Monica**  
**Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**September 20, 2012**

**In Attendance:** Fr Kevin Keelen, Dcn Mike Principato, Jackie Wilson, Vic Poretti, Bob Dippold, Barbara Rookey, Alice Stephens, Linda Thompson, Bette Hromiko, Mike Hintenach, Eric Perucki, Olmedo Restrepo, and Liz Hills.

**Facilitator:** Vic Poretti

**Opening Prayer:** Fr Kevin Keelen

**Consensus** on the minutes from March 28, 2012 meeting

The meeting began with introductions and a welcome to Fr Kevin as our new pastor. Fr Kevin indicated the existing parish council members will remain for a least six months.

**Parish Festival - Sept 16, 2012**

We were blessed with a beautiful day. Fr Kevin noted how the parishioners take ownership of their parish and the good sense of community within the parish. Alice Stephens, chairperson and the festival committee did a wonderful job. In addition to the Knights of Columbus assisting with set up and cooking, many volunteers chipped in to make the day successful. Approximately 299 attended the activities which began with the outdoor Mass at 11 am (in English and Spanish) celebrated by Fr Kevin and concelebrated by Fr Tom, Fr Fernando and assisted by Deacon Mike. Both English and Spanish music ministries took part as well. Wristbands were sold prior to the festival \$5 adults and \$1 for children and the day of the festival \$8 adults and \$1 for children. Offering the discount prior to the festival was a good idea, allowing for better planning of food needed. The food was served this year which resulted in less waste. Parishioners kindly donated salads and desserts and additional food was purchased in addition to the hot dogs and hamburgers to make sure we had enough for all. William Medina was our DJ volunteer, Lauren Merwin our MC, Kim Merwin kept things running smoothly in the kitchen. There were plenty of activities for all to enjoy including a photo booth. Festival proceeds amounted to \$1,300. A donation in the amount of \$150 will be made to the Cassville Fire Dept in appreciation for being at the festival offering demonstrations of the fire truck. "Thank you" to everyone for making the celebration a success. Suggestions for next year: Look into purchasing a "moon walk" for future festivals, request D.A.R.E. or Jackson First Aid conduct presentations/demos.

**Spanish Community Update - Olmedo Restrepo**

Fr Kevin was invited to attend the Spanish Leadership Team meetings that take place the first Thursday of each month. The celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe is being planned for Sun, Dec 9. The Blood Drive in honor of Fatima Mendoza takes place at St Monica on Nov 10 from 9 am - 3 pm through the Central Jersey Blood Bank.

## Old Business/Reports

### Liturgy Committee Update - Barbara Rookey

The committee meets following this meeting. They are in the process of developing guidelines for various ministries and lessons on religious education for families for publication on our website.

### Bishop's Annual Appeal Update (Fr Kevin Keelen)

Just prior to the deadline, we reached our \$18,000 goal in paid pledges with a total of \$18,068. We received our rebate check in the amount of \$2,734.03 (15% of 18,000 + 50% over 18,000 for the 68.00 over goal).

### St Als/St Monica Carnival Update (Mike Hintenach)

The carnival took place May 30 - June 2 this year. Even though the weather didn't cooperate on two of the days, it went well. Pending the resolution of an issue with the credit card vendor, St Monica will receive approximately \$15,000 (30% of net proceeds).

## New Business

### Eucharistic Congress (Fr Kevin Keelen)

Bishop O'Connell announced the Diocese will begin the Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict with a Eucharistic Congress. The three day celebration of our faith takes place October 12 to 14, 2012 at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. 7th and 8th Grade students in our Religious Education program will attend on October 12. Two buses have been rented to transport the students and chaperones. Our Knights of Columbus have generously donated \$550 toward the bus expense. Other events include anniversary blessing on October 13, a Vietnam memorial service and a closing Mass on October 14. All are encouraged to attend the event. Details, schedules and directions will be available in our bulletin and posted on our website.

### Mass Count (Fr Kevin Keelen)

The annual October Mass Counts take place the weekends of October 20 and 27. All parishes in the diocese participate in this count to obtain an accurate total of people attending Mass.

### Soup Suppers (Barbara Rookey)

The suppers which have taken place in the past during the months of October through March (after the Saturday, 5:30 pm Mass) offers soup, salad, bread and desserts and promotes good fellowship. The food is all donated by parishioners. Kim Merwin has offered to coordinate the suppers. With Fr Kevin's approval, council scheduled the suppers for November 3, 2012, January 12, February 23 and March 16, 2013, with the March 16 supper having an Irish theme.

### Stations of the Cross (Fr Kevin Keelen)

Our Stations are currently located near the back wall within the sanctuary of the church. Discussed moving them to the perimeter of the parish hall so they're more visible and accessible.

### Spaghetti/Italian Dinner (Linda Thompson)

This community event was scheduled for Friday, February 1 at 6:30 pm in our parish hall with a snow date of February 8.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Icon (Eric Perucki)

A secondary relic of an icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe (painting) is available to the Knights of Columbus throughout the Council in New Jersey. Depending on the dates of it's availability, Eric would like to arrange to bring the icon to St Monica for a prayer service or praying of the rosary.

### Open Forum

Jackie Wilson - Possibility of having Mass on First Friday each month. This will be discussed again in the Spring.

Linda Thompson - Bridget Maitner celebrates her 101st birthday September 30th. Linda will get a cake and community will sing to her after Mass.

Fr Kevin Keelen - Distributed information on "Practical Wisdom: How Pastoral Councils Can Make a Real Difference" workshop being offered by the diocese. Council members interested in attending will contact the parish office.

### Agenda Items For Next Meeting

Stewardship - Expanding members, becoming more involved, financially supporting parish, giving of time and talent.

Please feel free to let Fr Kevin know of anything he needs to be aware of,-- as our Pastor, he's here to listen.

The next meeting was scheduled for Wed, Nov 7, 2012 at 6:30 pm. Linda Thompson volunteered to facilitate.

Meeting concluded in prayer.