

COMPANIONS FOR THE JOURNEY
WITH OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS

MINUTES
June 16, 2015



The meeting was opened with a prayer to the Holy Spirit by Alice Rutkowski at 10:10 am.

SIGN-IN

Eight members were present: Alice Rutkowski, Harold Rakowitz, Kathy Snoga, Ken Keller, Daryl Rutkowski, Karen Bagwell (Counselor), Jerry Lichtenberger, Jeanette Morrisett.

Jerry Introduced herself to Karen Bagwell.

MINUTES

Minutes were passed out and read by the members. Ken Keller approved and Daryl Rutkowski seconded. Members agreed.

PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

Alice attended the Pastoral Council meeting First Wednesday of May and presented the plan for our gatherings as presented by Karen Bagwell. The council took the plan and would consider it until the June meeting. At the June Pastoral Council meeting Alice presented the quarterly committee report. A copy was given to the Companions for the Journey Committee. There was a stumbling block with Father Rodolfo, but the Holy Spirit stepped in and fixed everything. We have approval to move forward with our gatherings of those grieving. We just need to keep him informed of what is going on. He will review progress after one year.

VISITATIONS

Visitation reps, Jeanette Morrisett and Jerry Lichtenberger that go with Father Emmanuel were in attendance. A new visitation list was given to the committee. We have two new people on the list, Shirley Bordovsky and Kathy Collins. Kathy Collins does not want to be visited, but we will continue to pray for her. Caroline Wollney is in the hospital.

Jeanette said that the homebound really only want to be visit once month. It is too hard for them physically to be seen more than that. Harold is still in contact with Gilbert Kiolbassa and the other ladies. Our main focus is to keep in contact with them if only by phone. Mary Louise Cielencki would be one to call. She is by herself most of the time.

Jeanette and Jerry stated that a lot of people were not seen because of the lateness in the day of the visit. The mass is taking a longer time with the double blessing and then the Mother of Perpetual Help devotions. It is after 9:00am before they get started. This is too late for most people because of doctor appointments and other errands on Tuesdays. Very seldom did we have a problem with the First Friday time frame. Plus we have noticed that a lot of the people that use to come for the healing Mass on First Friday are not coming on First Tuesday. They requested that it be changed back to First Friday. Instructions were given to Jeanette to speak with Father Rodolfo about the matter, since Father Emmanuel says the Masses on Friday anyway.

OBITUARIES

Claude Ciomperlik and Lance Brown passed away end of May. Norbert Wollney died in Pearland. Mass was celebrated at St Jerome and burial in St. Jerome Cemetery. Mass cards were sent to the widows of Ciomperlik and Brown. Alice was called upon to say the Rosary for each or these men. A stipend was given to her which she will put in a trust fund for the Companions for the Journey to use for the Gatherings. She has spoken to Dennis

and Dianne at the office and this was their suggestion. A budget is required from each committee. Alice presented a preliminary budget for the Committee's consideration. Ken Keller said he would take over the task of submitting a workable budget based on the comments of the committee. Committee was in agreement.

We still do not have funeral coordinators. Darlene LaVelle is still looking for coordinators.

COUNSELOR

Facilitator Training is scheduled with Karen for June 18 at 9:00 am till 11:00am. Karen explained how she would train the committee on grief counseling, for instance, how to handle a person who might be anticipating suicide. Kathy Snoga suggested a spiritual counselor as well; her cousin Diana Carpenter, has a Master's in Theology, and as a Pastoral Associate at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton for 9 years, has done Spiritual Counseling and has been Spiritual Director on many ACTS Retreats. She will be attending our training meeting. Diana suggested to Kathy that we have a diverse group for the gathering, both men and women. Since the meeting is at 9:00am, Kathy will bring breakfast snacks and whoever else wants to. Ken has a doctor's appointment and will not be attending the training. Denise Matkovich will be on vacation.

CLOSING

The meeting closed with prayer by the members to Our Mother of Sorrows at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice M. Rutkowski

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Tape #802-0008-6-16-2015