

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 13, 2011**

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Nestor, John Russo, Louise Cocuzzo, Frank Lombardo, Michael Angotti, Kathryn Davis, Jan Dolan, Adele Hamblett, Bob Hillis, Paul Kenrick, Marge McGlone, Jean Nolan, Moira Ounjian, Peter Pongratz, Andrew Regan, Stephanie Rogers

ABSENT: Joan Sweeney

The meeting was opened with a prayer and a Scripture reading by Jan Dolan. A brief meditation and discussion followed.

The March 16, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as written.

#### COMMISSION REPORTS

FINANCE – John Russo reported that OSR is \$26,000 less than last year at this time. Last year at this time there were 1,012 pledges vs. 1,006 for this year to date. The fees for Religious Education registration impact this year's number but since RE registration is continuing through April, it is not possible to provide accurate figures for this report. So far 27 additional families have registered for the 2011/12 Program. It seems that the extended opportunities to register have effectively accommodated parishioners. John is in the process of preparing the 2011/12 budget. It is important to estimate what materials will be needed for RE because the cost is approximately \$100,000. If for any reason John would be unable to prepare the budget, members of the Finance Council could take over.

RENOVATION/CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN – John also provided a report on the Campaign. As of April 12, 2011 the parish has received 273 gifts, \$1,322,452 in pledges, and \$613,181 in cash. The plan is to move forward because the financial criteria of 70% of pledges and 50% in cash for the overall \$1.8 million project have been met. The campaign organizer continues to assure success. Two hundred and fifty households attended presentation receptions. After Easter, a reminder letter will be sent to those who have not yet pledged/contributed to the campaign. Since gifts are spread over three to four years, the Archdiocese will provide a line of credit for protection. The architect will review all bids submitted by contractors. It is estimated that the overall project will take about a year, with the installation of AC being a priority. Some members expressed amazement that of the 2300 registered households only 273 have responded to date. Some felt that the fear of financial commitment has to do with the present

economy. Others were optimistic that the needed money will come in due time. Newly registered parishioners will also be included in the campaign.

LITURGY – Louise Cocuzzo reported that all preparation is in order for the Easter triduum, the Holy Thursday washing of the feet of parish and ministry representatives, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Religious Education – Jean Nolan reported that the committee has had wonderful support from the RE Office. In keeping with the previous suggestion of adopting an individual student to pray for, it was suggested that in the upper grades, whole tables be adopted and prayed for throughout the RE Program.

It was mentioned that 500 children are registered at St. Eulalia's vs. 1,000 at St. Mary's. Examples were given as to why some people choose one program over another.

Parish Life Enhancement – Stephanie Rogers reported that people seem to be very enthusiastic over "Coffee and Conversation" being offered after the various week-end Masses. She also reported that 35 people attended the additional screening of the powerful film, **AMISH GRACE**.

Catholics Come Home – Paul Kenrick reported that the committee feels that the number of greeters should be increased. His Lenten Longings group is willing to greet at various Masses. He also reported that his attendance at the day-long "Co-Workers in the Vineyard" conference was a remarkable experience, and appreciated the number of examples offered for evangelization. Father Tom added that the level of consciousness for evangelization needed to be raised among members of the parish. Some folks mentioned that they have felt an increase in Mass attendance since the beginning of this campaign. It was also mentioned that some people who return to Mass after a long absence need time to work through their feelings. Father Tom distributed copies of a letter of invitation to "come home" which will be posted on the website and also be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin. All agreed that the letter was beautifully written and suggested that the names and contact information of the pastoral staff also be included in the letter.

#### NEW BUSINESS

On Sunday, May 1, 2011 there will be a joint meeting with St. Mary's PPC which will be a follow-up to the meeting held last October. Points from the October meeting were reviewed and Fr.

Tom asked what would be helpful for St. Eulalia's to address at this joint meeting. The following points were mentioned.

- Do both councils know what each parish's strengths are?
- Both parishes may be very similar
- Have a list of our parish activities available
- Loss of identity would be the greatest fear in the process of collaboration.
- Re-state what the fears may be
- Work on a Mass schedule
- Mass on the Winchester Common (possibly annually)
- Invite St. Mary's to Mass and vice versa
- St. Eulalia encompasses two towns- how does that affect collaboration
- New ideas for joint activities are always needed
- Maybe soften the word "fear"
- Wayland merged two parishes. How did they do it? FYI – Fr. Jim Laughlin from the Wayland parishes will speak to the May meeting of VOTF about the merger
- Invite St. Mary's PPC to the 5:00 p.m. Mass on May 1 prior to the meeting
- Fr. Tom and Fr. Dick will agree on points to be discussed

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Frank Lombardo, Andrew Regan, Kathryn Davis, Bob Hillis and Joan Sweeney comprise the Election Committee. Talks by PPC members will be given at Masses during the week-end of May 7/8. Nominations will be held on 5/14-15 and elections will be held on June 4-5. Pictures and bios of the people nominated will be posted on 5/21-22.

#### REMINDER DATES

1. Soup and Stations – April 15 @ 6:30 p.m.
2. Triduum – 4/21 Holy Thursday 7:30 Washing of the Feet, 4/22 - Good Friday Liturgy, 7:30 p.m.  
4/23 – Easter Vigil, 8:00 p.m.
3. Way of the Cross dramatization – 4/22, 3:00 p.m.
4. The Light is On For You (Confession) – Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

5. Ministry Enrichment evening – Wednesday, May 25, 7:30 p.m. Fr. Greg Hoppough from Blessed John XXIII Seminary will be the guest speaker. He will talk about the upcoming changes in the Liturgy to enhance our understanding of the differences and changes. Father Tom has urged PPC members to make this a priority to attend

6. Winchester Town Day – Saturday, June 4 – will be more fully discussed at a future meeting

A sign-up sheet was circulated for PPC representation after the Masses during the week-end of May 7-8.

#### PARISHIONERS COMMENTS

Air Conditioning to be done first on the list of renovations.

Upset about fund raising at this time because of the terrible economy

Please post the numbers for readings and hymns on both sides of the altar

Encourage silence after the Holy Thursday Liturgy

Altar appears drab and needs a little color. The person making this comment is an interior decorator and would be willing to help with a new design.

Father Tom closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving for the commitment on the part of the council members and asked for continued enlightenment from the Holy Spirit.

Next meeting May 11, 2011

Respectfully submitted, Dolores Mullin, Secretary to PPC