

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 11, 2011**

***PRESENT: Fr. Tom Nestor, 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, Joan Sweeney***

**The meeting opened with a prayer and a Scripture reading from John by Michael Angotti. A brief meditation and discussion followed.**

The April 13, 2011 meeting minutes were approved as written.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

LITURGY – Louise Cocuzzo reported that on June 5, 2011 the Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at the 11:15. The parish continues to be busy with weddings and funerals. Fr. Tom complimented Louise on the wonderful job she is doing, especially with all the difficult planning for Holy Week.

**NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION**

Questions were raised regarding the May 1, 2011 joint meeting with St. Mary's PPC. Responses follow

1. Frank Lombardo made reference to the announcement in St. Mary's weekly bulletin mentioning the joint meeting which emphasized the topics being discussed, i.e., Mass schedule and possible avenues of collaboration. There was concern expressed about the life of each parish. Would individual parish business offices be run separately? It is unclear at this time what collaboration is going to look like.
2. Most members came away with positive feelings. However, many questions about the reality of collaboration remain. Some folks are concerned about financial donations especially regarding St. Eulalia's Capital Campaign. Others were surprised that the Archdiocese has already formed a planning committee before general parish input. Whatever happens, people will have to understand that their parish will change. There will be emotional issues.
3. The Church has been evolving since its beginning. In the past, neighborhoods were identified by their parishes. It is important to approach the idea of collaboration with a positive attitude. Continuing joint meetings will foster familiarity and positive feelings. It is important for PPCs to project a positive attitude. People have to realize that parishes are part of the universal Church without giving up parish identity. It is important to concentrate on the core values of the Church and that is

to spread the Word of God. The world beyond us needs more light and hope. Some folks were saddened by the possible changes in Mass schedules. Whatever transpires, there will be some who will be displeased. It is hoped that these folks will eventually come around. We are more adaptable than we think. With the changes in parish identity, people will continue to attend Mass but may be less inclined to become involved in parish activities.

4. Father Tom offered some hopeful ideas, despite anxiety and fear. It is important to look at what opportunities will unfold and to place trust in the Holy Spirit. It will jolt people out of complacency and make room for positive thinking. It is also very important to be sensitive to parishioners' feelings. The following activities in which St. Mary's and St. Eulalia's might collaborate are RCIA, Youth Ministry, and Religious Education. Everything doesn't have to happen at once but the previous suggestions might be a good place to start. Communication with parishioners should start by emphasizing that **NO MORE CHURCH CLOSINGS ARE ANTICIPATED**. This should set a positive tone for announcing other aspects of the collaboration efforts. Father Tom circulated his summary of the joint meeting with St. Mary's which will appear in the Sunday bulletin. Clarification was offered regarding worship sites. There could be one parish with 4/5 sites with two or three assigned priests. There will certainly be Eucharist on Sundays. Maine and parts of the mid-west are already working with this model. Concrete examples have to be presented to parishioners. It is important to emphasize working collectively to keep the church vibrant. Though the Archdiocese has formed a planning committee, they are still looking to parishes for ideas to set some wheels in motion by September. . The Archdiocese should look at the original parish boundaries which might help to determine what collaborations and worship sites could work. It is difficult to develop a model for all because there will always be exceptions. St Mary's and St. Eulalia's PPCs are two capable groups working together to get things done despite the difficulties. . Reference materials are available to trigger some ideas from other areas which have already gone through the process. PPC members are encouraged to attend Fr. Jim Laughlin's presentation on Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:30 in the church. His topic is *BRINGING PARISHES TOGETHER*.
5. Things could get started with outreach to other parishes in the area by planning some faith sharing Sundays. These changes are going to be just as difficult for priests as for parishioners. Mass on the Common sometime over the summer would be a wonderful way for Catholics to come together. Sharing factual information is necessary for both parishes and is of prime importance. Things are going to be different and it is not yet clear what that all means but a positive approach can curb

and contain the damage. It is time for parishes to develop a different sense of what community is.

**CATHOLICS COME HOME** – The response to the campaign during Lent has been somewhat disappointing. However, it may take a while to evaluate how successful the program has been. Adele Hamblett has received a few phone calls from fallen away Catholics who might possibly use RCIA for re-education to return to the church. Father Tom will continue his welcoming messages at Mass with varying approaches. Although the results to date are not tremendous, Fr. Tom feels that the campaign has raised consciousness on Evangelization.. PPC felt the program should continue because it presents an opportunity for people to come back.

#### **REMINDER DATES**

- May 16, 2011 – VOTF – 7:30 pm in the church – Fr. Jim Laughlin speaking on *BRINGING PARISHES TOGETHER*
- May 25, 2011 – 7:30 pm in the church - Ministry Enrichment Evening – Fr. Greg Hoppough from Blessed John XXIII Seminary will speak about the changes in the Liturgy and help us to understand and appreciate the rationale for it.
- June 4, 2011 – Winchester Town Day – St. E. will not participate this year for a number of reasons, i.e., the renovation of Manion Hall being one
- June 4/5, 2011 – Parish Council Election – Frank Lombardo, Kathryn Davis, Bob Hillis, Andrew Regan, and Joan Sweeney will serve on the PPC Election Committee
- June 10, 2011 – “White House” – Mass at 6:30 pm followed by a Pot Luck Supper

Sign-up sheets were circulated for PPC pre-meeting Mass coverage for the week-end of June 4/5 and for the Pot Luck Supper.

#### **RENOVATION/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Renovations will be underway starting in Manion Hall on Monday, May 16, 2011. The hall, kitchen, and bathrooms will be completely done, so Manion is off limits for the time being. Following will be work on AC for the church with the hope that it will be in place by the summer. Reminder letters have been mailed to parishioners who have not yet responded to the campaign. Also, phone calls will be made to parishioners who attended receptions but have not yet responded. Father Tom is adamant about “no hard sell.”

#### **PARISHIONERS CONCERNS AND COMMENTS**

Someone was upset about the roof leaking and not being repaired. Repairing the roof has been included in the renovation.

Announcement should be made that Parish Council meetings are open to all parishioners.

Some women were disturbed by having only mothers stand for a blessing on Mother's Day. There was considerable discussion around this subject and recommendations were made so that no one will be hurt or offended in the future, nor on Father's Day.

Could there be small collections during the year for various outside needs?

Some folks were appalled with all the talking and socializing going on after the Holy Thursday Liturgy. The noise was very disrespectful.

Would it be possible to have Communion on Good Friday after the *WAY OF THE CROSS* for those folks who can't make it back in the evening?

Next meeting June 8, 2011 – 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dolores Mullin, Secretary to PPC