

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 10, 2010

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Nestor, Louise Cocuzzo, Frank Lombardo, Michael Angotti, Kathryn Davis, Jan Dolan, Adele Hamblett, Bob Hillis, Paul Kenrick, Jean Nolan, Moira Ounjian, Stephanie Rogers, Joan Sweeney, John Russo

ABSENT: Marge McGlone, Peter Pongratz, Andrew Regan

Moira Ounjian opened the meeting with a Scripture reading from Luke. A brief discussion and meditation followed.

The October 6, 2010 PPC Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

COMMISSION REPORTS

LITURGY COMMISSION – Louise Cocuzzo reported that the Mass of Anointing and the reception following were well received. Rides were provided as needed. There were about 100 people in attendance for the Mass for the Deceased. Most people stayed for coffee for a long while after Mass and felt very comforted by the experience, especially as the Christmas season approaches. The Bereavement Committee put together a very beautiful liturgy, providing memorial candles for each deceased member. Deceased members of our families are remembered with photos in the church foyer and are listed in the Book of Remembrance. The parish is looking forward to the celebrations of Confirmation and Thanksgiving. With the start of Advent and winter activities there is hope for more active participation from parishioners.

FINANCE COMMISSION – John Russo reported that FC members delivered their OSR talks on November 7 and will be followed by Fr. Tom's talk on November 14. OSR packets will be mailed with a financial statement to let people know how their money is being spent. As of October, pledges are behind by 27 but the dollar amount is ahead by \$71,000. The largest contributions typically come in during November and December for tax deduction purposes.

On January 11, 2011, Brian Raiche and Fr. Tom will do a presentation at the White House for FC, PPC, Staff, and the Renovation Committee. Brian will discuss the results of the survey and plans to move forward with the campaign. Now that the Archdiocese has approved the renovation plan, the architect will more specifically enlarge the plans. There will be a number of these small group meetings at the White House starting with this one in January. Light refreshments will be served.

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION – The following comments summarized reactions on the joint meeting with St. Mary's PPC on October 17, 2010:

- Translate interest into actions by both parishes
- Intrigued by questions and curiosity about St. Eulalia's
- Invite a delegation to Mass and send a delegation to St. Mary's to continue joint effort

- Some parishioners were understandably fearful.
 - Experienced the full gamut of emotions from optimism to fear and anxiety.
 - Need to focus on positive steps and move forward instead of looking at negatives. Start by getting smaller groups who have common interests together to share ideas.
 - Fear that their church would be closed.
 - It is pretty positive that both parishes are vibrant, confirmed by the fact that the Archdiocese has approved St. E's renovation plan which is about to begin, while St. Mary's is just finishing.
 - It is assumed that proximity to St. Charles in Woburn is what contributed to the closing of the Immaculate Conception Church.
 - It was very difficult to engage people one-on-one on the subject of evangelization
 - Some felt that their small group discussions were quite upbeat.
 - It is hoped that at the next joint meeting, which will be held next spring, there will be concrete action plans with which to move forward. Since the 10th anniversary of 9/11 is coming up, perhaps Mass on the Winchester Common might be an appropriate beginning for collaboration
 - In the meantime Fr. Tom and Fr. Dick will meet to discuss the possibility of
 - sharing programs centered around the upcoming changes in the Liturgy.
- Both parishes have an obligation to plan for the future. All in all, the joint meeting was more hopeful than apprehensive.

EVANGELIZATION STRATEGIES – The two main reasons for evangelization are to bring people back who have fallen away and to increase devotion of the people who continue to be faithful. It was decided that sub-committees be formed to address the main areas where evangelization is necessary.

1. Sub-committee on Religious Education to be chaired by Jean Nolan to emphasize the relationship between RE and Mass attendance
2. Enhancement of Parish Life to be chaired by Stephanie Rogers
3. Preparation for Catholics Come Home to be chaired by Paul Kenrick

These sub-committees will meet between now and the next PPC meeting to be held in January, 2011 when they will present ideas and suggestions for each area in an effort to move forward with plans. There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the area of "Enhancement of Parish Life." Some people don't feel like they are included and feel that the same people are doing everything all the time. The following suggestions were made in regard to this area:

- Put a request in the bulletin asking for people to serve in various capacities and follow it up with a personal phone call.
- A system needs to be in place to respond to people who express a willingness to help. Some people who signed on in surveys were never contacted. Put a list in the bulletin of all parish organizations with the name of a "go to" person.
- Get this done for the start of Advent. Let people know who does what, where, and when, and keep personally inviting folks to become involved in a warm and welcoming way.

CATHOLICS COME HOME – Fr. Tom showed several TV commercials which will be aired on the Boston channels. He mentioned that these have been airing in Phoenix and Chicago, have been well received with up to a 20% increase attendance. The ads are successful because they acknowledge with pride what the church does. Some people feel shy about speaking positively about the church because we

have been shamed but “that is not all that we are.” It is important to emphasize knowledge about the extent of the Church’s activities.

RENOVATION REPORT – Fr. Tom reported that about 200 people responded to the questionnaire with strong support for the project, i.e., about 89%. Brian Raiche has had very successful meetings with focus groups and is planning to meet one-on-one with potential donors. The question was raised whether AC could be installed

before the summer and perhaps be used as a good selling point. It will certainly be considered if there are no architectural constrictions.

NEW ROMAN MISSAL – After the first of the year it is planned to have groups come together to learn about the changes. It was suggested that a retreat during Lent on this subject might be appropriate. Fr. Tom mentioned that the changes are not extensive but are very meaningful. This is a wonderful opportunity to be educated not only about the changes but about their meaning. There will be various announcements in the bulletin and from the altar, etc. Many changes occur in the music, some in Lamb of God and in Holy, Holy, Holy. The changes are much more faithful to the Latin text and will take place on the first Sunday of Advent, 2011.

REMINDER DATES

Nov. 22, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. Haddad Center. Giving Tree Circle Preparation – Bob and Mary Carey need help with this. It is a wonderful feel-good experience to kick off the holiday season.

November 27/28, 2010 – Hanging circles on tree after Mass

December 3, 6:30 p.m. – Advent Program – Blessing of the Manger and Christmas Tree Lighting

December 4, 2010 – 7:30 p.m. – Annual Christmas Concert by Choir – Collation to follow

December 12, 2010 – 7:30 p.m. – Welcome the Child program

December 13, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. – Manion Hall – Sorting of Christmas Giving Tree gifts

December 29, 2010 – 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Open House – Catered supper for PPC, FC, Staff, etc.

January 22, 2011 – Appreciation Night

There will be bulletin and newspaper announcements for some of the Advent Program events with a specific invitation to St. Mary’s to attend the Choir Concert on December 4.

Sign-up sheets were distributed for Mass coverage for the week-end of January 8/9, 2011 preceding the January 12, 2011 PPC meeting and for volunteers to help with the circle preparation for the Giving Tree.

PARISHIONERS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

People are still complaining about the lack of signage on the left side of the altar. Investigating the cost to remedy this situation as quickly as possible.

PPC is doing a wonderful job.

Thrilled to have Fr. Bertelli sit on the altar steps with the children during their Liturgy.

The Eucharistic bowls are too cumbersome for the Tabernacle.

Had a request for a water bubbler in the church foyer. This will be addressed in the renovation process with a restroom in the lobby area.

Eliminate the announcements after Mass and have quiet time instead or have quiet time at the end of the homily.

Introduce yourself to people around you and be welcoming.

Pursue the possibility of coffee after Mass at least once a month. Use this as an outreach opportunity.

Father Tom closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving and asked for continued guidance from the Holy Spirit through the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Mullin, Secretary to PPC