

CHURCH OF ST. EULALIA
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2011

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Nestor, Louise Cocuzzo, Michael Angotti, Matt Calvey, Kathryn Davis, Jan Dolan, Mary Fiorentino, Jean Nolan, Moira Ounjian, Peter Pongratz, Andrew Regan, Stephanie Rogers, Phil Waterman, Christina Hurley, Gerry Ross

ABSENT: Paul Kenrick, Marge McGlone

The meeting was opened with a prayer and a Scripture reading from Matthew by Andrew Regan. A brief meditation and discussion followed.

The September 7, 2011 meeting minutes were accepted as corrected.

MINISTRY REPORTS

FINANCE – Gerry Ross reported that OSR receipts for the calendar year 2011 through September were \$643K. This is \$27.9K less than the same period of 2010. Pledges were down 107 at 1131 to date. The total dollars pledged is \$846.6K, which is \$17.8K less than 2010 at this date. From a fiscal year point of view, our net income is negative \$26.9K. The total income for the 1st quarter was \$141.4K and the expenses were \$174.6K. In summary, although it is too early to predict the end of year performance, the trend is negative. The 2011 pledge dollars are still only slightly negative. The number of OSR participants is down significantly. The decline in Mass attendance is not only worrisome for spiritual reasons but will translate to a negative financial impact. It was also suggested that the Capital Campaign and the current economy is having a negative effect on OSR. Since numbers are very difficult to follow without seeing them, the FC was asked to provide a printed sheet to distribute to PPC detailing yearly comparisons.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Jared Blake reported that his goal as Youth Minister is to help the young people of St. Eulalia's to apply what they learn in religious education to their lives both inside and outside the church, and to support them in their efforts to grow into wholesome adults.

Upcoming Social Events

- Witches Woods Haunted Theme Park
- Salem Day Trip
- Broadway trip to see **GODSPELL**
- Friday Night middle school drop-ins
- Sunday Night High School Socials
- Harry Potter Lock-in (and various themed lock-ins)
- Nutcracker Ballet in Boston
- Holy Dodgeball

Upcoming Service Projects

- Work Camp Nashville 2012 and Fundraisers
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Christmas Tree Gift Sorting
- St. Matthew's Food Pantry
- Welcome the Child Christmas Play

Upcoming Ideas

- Sustainable Garden on the Hill
- Middle School Lock-in
- Washington DC Rally for Life
- Interactive Website with the ability to stream events live (i.e., 5:00 Mass or Way of the Cross)
- LIFT Program for the North Shore

Jared always welcomes all comments and suggestions.

LITURGY – Louise Cocuzzo reported that the Parish Mission held at the beginning of October was met with mixed feelings. Although Fr. Geoff is an intelligent, spiritual speaker who delivered very helpful information, most felt that the sessions ran too long. Some also felt that some of the material was not relative to present day lives. There is a video of all sessions available on a lending basis. It was suggested that for future Missions specific begin and end times for sessions be posted.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Evangelization – Fr. Tom and Paul Kenrick met with Fr. Robert Rivers the author of the book, ***FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION***, to help determine what the next step the parish could take toward this goal. Approximately 13 people are on the subcommittee and other members have been encouraged to join. As the subcommittee grows, future meetings will reconvene to further discuss the steps with which to move forward. All the members of the subcommittee who have read the book have had very positive reactions and certain points of the book have resonated differently to members. Evangelization is expanding. It was suggested that along with planning and evangelization should be part of our collaboration with St. Mary's. Existing circumstances make planning necessary and urgent. One positive, significant effect of the book is to allay the negative connotation of the word "evangelization".

Parish Life Enhancement – Stephanie Rogers reported that because of the Manion Hall renovation, no social events have been planned. Perhaps some movies with a Christmas theme might be screened in the church sometime during Advent. Some kind of celebration will be planned at a later date for the completion of the renovations.

Religious Education – Andrew Regan reported that the Prayer Sponsorship program is not ready to be presented. There are design and other issues to be worked out before it can be released. It is a worthy project and Andrew wants to take as much time as necessary to develop it properly, which will include some input from RE leaders.

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

Communications – Peter Pongratz prepared a proposal to be considered by PPC. Review and discussion of this will be held during the November 9 meeting.

Pastoral Planning – Craig Gibson who is a member of the Archdiocesan Planning Committee is expected to speak at the next joint meeting with St. Mary's on November 6. The question was raised, "What points do we bring to St. Mary's for discussion?" The following comments were made.

- Bring some of the points from **THE CHANGING FACE OF THE CHURCH** and **FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION** for discussions on collaboration. The five items listed in the beginning of Chapter 2 of **CHANGING** might be a good stepping off point.
- St. Agnes and St. Camillus have been collaborating with faith formation, adult education, and guest speakers for some time. Arlington also has a parish-wide Confirmation program.
- Expand the ARISE program to include more adult faith formation.
- The type of relationship St. Mary's and St. Eulalia's have can present a stumbling block.
- Significant changes are necessary and both parishes need to move in the same direction.
- Because of different boundaries, different perceptions exist about both parishes.
- Necessity will force us to act and change. The question is what can the two parishes do together.
- It is hoped that the more relaxed feelings of the last combined meeting will continue to grow with future meetings.
- People will gravitate to parishes which meet their needs. On what do you base those decisions?
- Make it easy for people to see what we offer and who we are by developing some kind of catalog explaining all functions of the parish.
- Perhaps a Communications Committee could be involved in revising the "Welcome Packet" to include a description of all ministries with the name of a contact person.
- Include a "Did You Know" paragraph in the weekly bulletin and set up a bulletin board for activities.

FACEBOOK for Teen CCD – Christina Hurley presented some background on the topic of Facebook and expressed her concern about its appropriateness for adolescents and teens to discuss religious issues. Father Tom asked for counsel from PPC so that he can make an informed decision as to whether it should be included in the teen program. A very lengthy discussion ensued. Some members were very much against its use and others supported it. There was discussion about accessing the information and monitoring/managing the use. Monitoring it could possibly turn into a 24/7 job. Father thanked the PPC for their counsel.

INFORMATIVE ITEMS AND REMINDER DATES

Father Tom reported that the Renovation project was moving along nicely.

The next joint PPC meeting with St. Mary's will be on November 6 at St. Mary's.

Giving Tree tags to be made by PPC – date TBA. Sorting gifts will be done by PPC and

Youth Ministry members on Monday, December 12 at 6:30.

A signup sheet was distributed for Mass coverage on the weekend of Nov. 5/6 preceding the November 9 meeting.

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

Some folks would like more information about Fr. Vic's health.

Could the meditation booklets for Advent and Lent which are in the pews be sold.

The hearing devices are not working and haven't been for some time.

Could the scores for the new music be published and distributed.

Concern was expressed about gambling trips.

Father Tom closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving for the dedication and support of the PPC.

Respectively submitted,
Dolores Mullin, Secretary