

PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Nestor, Louise Cocuzzo, Frank Lombardo, Michael Angotti, Kathryn Davis, Jan Dolan, Adele Hamblett, Bob Hillis, Paul Kenrick, Jean Nolan, Peter Pongratz, Andrew Regan, Stephanie Rogers, Joan Sweeney, Anna-Marie Ferraro

ABSENT: Marge McGlone, Moira Ounjian

Frank Lombardo acknowledged the new PPC members for their willingness to serve on Parish Council and stressed the need and importance to plan for the future of the church.

Fr. Tom welcomed Louise Cocuzzo as the Parish's new Pastoral Associate.

Adele Hamblett officially opened the meeting with a Scripture reading from Luke. A brief discussion and meditation followed.

The June 8, 2010 meeting minutes were approved as written.

COMMISSION REPORTS

FINANCIAL COUNCIL – Anna-Marie Ferraro reported that OSR receipts for the current calendar year through August are \$68,500 higher than last year at this same point. The number of pledges is 40 fewer than last year at the same time, while the dollar amount pledged is \$68,000 higher this year. Net income for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2010 was \$63,716, compared to \$34,408 in the prior fiscal year. Budgeted income for the current fiscal year (7/1/10 – 6/30/11) is \$934,200 while budgeted expenses for that period are \$903,000, for projected net income of \$31,200. All of the above figures are exclusive of any capital campaign or renovation project considerations.

LITURGY COMMISSION – Louise Cocuzzo reported that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the archiving project in preparation for the 45th Anniversary of the Parish. The project includes interviews with long-standing parishioners who can provide historical background information to go along with the many photographs and articles on file.

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

Joint meeting with St. Mary's PPC – Fr. Tom hopes the meeting will take place sometime in October but at the time of this writing he's not sure about the agenda. The main purpose of the meeting is to discuss planning for the future of these two vibrant parishes. All PPC members would be invited to attend. Some of the points to be considered:

- What is needed and what should be done for the future

- Sharing of Ministries
- Does St. Mary's have the concept that there is real need
- Up until a couple of years ago, RCIA was held at St. Eulalia's and shared by St. Mary's
- Strong emphasis should be placed on the church as "family"

Departure of Moira Brady – Moira has accepted a position with Cardinal Spellman High School in Brockton. All the best to Moira in her new position.

ARISE – Adele Hamblett reported that the ARISE program which starts on October 3rd will be the final session of the program. Team leaders will attend a training session at St. Mary's in Melrose. The session is six weeks duration and will end before the holidays. Sign-up announcements will appear in the weekly bulletin and team leaders will contact their individual group members. Overall there are about 150 people who participate, comprising 18 groups. Meetings are held every day except Tuesdays and Saturdays. After ARISE ends there is hope for continuing programs of this nature.

CATHOLICS COME HOME – Several months ago an evangelization media campaign was launched in certain cities around the country, targeting Catholics who had fallen away. It was effective in a number of dioceses, especially in the Chicago area and one diocese in Arizona. 10-25% increases were reported after the campaign. Father Tom is considering this because he was very encouraged by participation in "Light Is On For You," with about 100 people attending Confession during Lent in 2010. The campaign would be financed by a special collection sometime in January. The question arose, "are there things we can do now before the campaign is launched?" The following comments were made:

- Show people that we are truly happy to have them back
- Talk with friends, relatives, etc. about what discourages them from coming to church.
- Engage families with children, i.e., the 9:00 a.m. children's liturgy is phenomenal
- Get back to basics.
- Discuss pressing issues for the church.
- Address couples who don't have children.
- Start with parents who drop children for RE and don't come to church. Encourage these parents to come at least once a month to set a good example.
- RE does not go on during Mass.
- It is easy to see at First Eucharist the people who don't come regularly. Some of them are only there to please elder family members.
- Sunday is no longer a sacred day. Why can't athletic games be scheduled on afternoons to make the morning free for family church attendance.
- Baby sitting for really little ones. Five and six year olds should be at Mass because they are beginning to learn.
- Develop a poster and bulletin campaign emphasizing that we are not whole if you're not here with us
- Develop strategies for outreach. We are lost and hurting. What would we really like to do.

- Address the issues which keep people away. Have small group discussion with people who have issues.
- Run focus groups to solicit information on what would make parishioners more active and what the church is doing to address contemporary issues.
- How many people in the parish are hurting financially?

Spend the month thinking about these remarks as a priority for discussion at the next PPC meeting.

REMINDER DATES

Parish Picnic – September 12, 2010 following the 11:15 Mass

Arlington Town Day – September 25, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Celebration of Mass by Bishop Peter Uglietto – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, 9/18

Reception and collation to follow in Manion Hall

Installation of PPC members, Sept. 26 at 5:00 p.m. Mass

Blessing of the Animals – October 3, 2010 – 2:00 p.m.

Anointing of the Sick – October 23, 2010 – 11:00 a.m. Mass

Pajama Drive – October?

Mass for deceased members of the parish – Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010 – 9:00

Day of Recollection – October 16, 2010 – 9:00 – 1:00 – St. Eulalia's

(PPC members, St. Eulalia staff, Finance Committee)

Sign-up sheets were distributed to volunteer at

Arlington Town Day

Collation for Bishop Peter Uglietto

PPC Pre-meeting Mass Representatives

Renovation Update – Father Tom reported that plans are progressing and that he has retained Cornerstone Fundraising to assist with this work. They have been approved by the Archdiocese to direct a planning study for our parish. Letters to potential donors will be mailed on 9/10/10 inviting them to meet with Brian Raiche who represents Cornerstone for one on one discussion. On 9/21/2010, letters to a larger number of parishioners will be mailed inviting them to attend focus groups led by members of the Cornerstone organization to elicit feedback. Ultimately, letter to the entire parish will be mailed. The architect on the project had open heart surgery. Our prayers are with him for a speedy and complete recovery. Father did not feel that this would interfere with the project. Formal fundraising will begin in January.

Anna-Marie Ferraro from the Finance Council added some information. Phase 1 will be a feasibility study to determine if the project is a go. The estimated cost is 1.7 million which is twice over OSR's annual collection and three times over the general offertory. This campaign should not interfere with ongoing OSR. The renovation plan includes the installation of:

Elevator to accommodate 3 levels

New Reconciliation room in the alcove of the foyer between the stairways. A glass enclosure includes drapes for privacy.

Handicap bathroom on the church level where ushers' Closet is now located.

Kitchen and bathrooms in Manion Hall.

AC for church.

Foyer wall will be glass – exact position to be determined.

Side door will have access to Manion Hall only. Entrance to church will be through the front.

Father Tom will speak the last week of October about the annual OSR collection

PARISHIONERS COMMENTS

Air Conditioning – being considered in the renovation plan and will only happen with parishioner support. Everything is wonderful

Meeting at the Parish of the Epiphany to discuss the decline of parishes in the Holy Land

Ongoing adult education apart from Lent

Lack of Minister when only one cup available at Mass – position cup centrally

Refresher for Eucharistic Ministers to come forward when needed at Mass

Make List of PPC members available – Minutes are available in magazine rack and on the website

Compliments to ushers at the 9:00 Mass in engaging people for offering gifts and carrying the cross

Greeters are a wonderful idea.

Father Tom closed the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving and asked continued guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Mullin, Secretary to PPC