

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
September 12, 2018

Present: Father Jim Savage, Martha Bujwid, Brian Burke, Jessica Callaghan, Louise Cocuzzo, Brian Collins, Mary DeCoursey, Doran Donovan, Claire McKenna, Michael Pescatore, Mike Pescatore (Sr.), Joan Sweeney

Absent: Mary Deyst

Opening Prayer. Claire McKenna led the opening prayer, *Be at Peace*, by St. Francis de Sales.

Minutes of Meeting. The June 13, 2018 minutes were accepted as corrected. The corrections were: (1) Under **Introductions/Thank You/Overview** on page 1 paragraph 2 line 2, the time of 7:30 p.m. should be corrected to read 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Update.

Father Jim announced that there had recently been some changes in staffing. In May, Mike Cunningham received and accepted an offer to become director of a retreat house in California. He will continue to write his column *The Unbroken Word* in our bulletin. Sally, his wife, who has a degree in pastoral ministry, will take over the position of Coordinator of Faith Formation for grades 7 thru 10. She, Larry Greco and Father will cover the religious education classes. In addition, our youth minister, Claire Aalerud, seized a position she was offered in Texas. Her position is difficult to fill as it is now September. A contemporary of Claire's volunteered to oversee the Teen Youth Program. Father also announced that the Confirmation retreats would take place in three weeks.

Father Jim and Father Erickson, the administrator for St. Mary's, Winchester, are exploring the possibility of having two stand alone parishes rather than having the parishes form a collaborative.

After the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report was released, Father Jim and Stephanie Rogers, Coordinator of Faith Formation for Grades K thru 6, held an open non-mandatory meeting for parents of religious education to discuss any concerns parents had regarding the findings and what St. Eulalia's was doing to protect their children. Only three parents came and two of those were parents of kindergarteners.

Some of the comments that were made as to Father Jim's homily regarding the grand jury report were as follows:

- Having a meeting with the parents of religious education students was a very good idea. Being open about the report gives people reassurance.
- Father Jim's homily was made more powerful by his including his own experiences and feelings.
- Most concerning was that the church covered up the abuse.
- Lay people should be allowed to become involved in policy making regarding this issue.
- New parents may have concerns deciding on whether to bring their children to religious education classes.
- Thus far only one student was withdrawn from religious education class.
- It was wise to have the parent meeting before the religious education classes started.
- As head of religious education at the time, Barbara Penkala, did an excellent job in reporting on how St. Eulalia's kept children safe.
- How to talk to their children about these issues is difficult for some parents.

There will be a three-part fall lecture series on what the bible and our tradition tell us about God. The topic of the lecture series is in response to a Pew Survey that reports that people believe in a higher power but not in the God revealed to us in the bible. The lectures are as follows:

- *The Existence of God in a Scientific Age* presented by Father Ronald Tocelli, S.J., a professor of Philosophy at Boston College—October 9, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Manion
- *Trinity is God's Name* presented by Father Jim—date to be announced at 7 p.m. in Manion Hall.
- *Jesus is God's Face* presented by Father Jim—date to be announced at 7 p.m. in Manion Hall.

Finance

- OSR. As of 7/31, OSR donations total \$647,854 vs. \$607,744 at the same time last year. OSR contributors total 680 compared to 625 last year at this time.
- On line donations total \$66,385.
- Net income is \$12,136
- Catholic Appeal. Pledges total \$110,950, 98% of our \$113,725 goal. Donors total 320. Unpaid pledges total \$6,731.

Liturgy. The Fall Festival and the blessing of religious education teachers will take place on September 16, 2018. The Confirmation retreat will take place on the weekend of September 22 and 23. The blessing offered for PPC members will take place on the weekend of September 29/30. The blessing will be given at all the Masses that PPC members are in attendance.

Hospitality Committee. Doran Donovan was in attendance to report on the Fall Festival which will take place on Sunday, September 16, after the 11 a.m. Mass from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m. The festival will be located in the front parking lot. If the weather is poor the event will take place in Manion Hall. Currently the weather is looking good for Sunday's festival. Set up will be from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon and clean up from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

This year's theme is Super Heroes and Everyday Heroes. Some of the everyday heroes' events will include a fire engine from the Winchester Fire Department; Arlington's K9 officer, Mike Hogan, with his dog; John and Mary Boudreau of the Cambridge Auxiliary Police and soldiers from Hanscom Air Force Base. Activities and entertainment will include: Animal Craze petting animals, pony rides, bouncy house, decorating your own mask, capes cut from T-shirts, photo boards, hats, faith-based superhero cards, balloon sculpting and face painting. Food for the event will include: meatballs, charcoal grilled sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, dessert selections, watermelon, and an assortment of beverages.

Volunteers are needed.

Presentations of New Ideas to Enhance Parish Life.

Movies/Lunch. Revive having a movie one day a month. Participants would bring their own lunch. This event was previously held in the McGann Conference Room but this space was thought to be too small. Manion Hall would be a better location.

First Friday Coffee. This event should also be brought back. While the event was always well attended, the difficulty was in getting people to set up and clean up. The parish provided the coffee and the attendees on a rotating basis provided the goodies, cream and juice.

K-6 Religious Education Service Project. This is the Easter Basket Project for the Somerville Coalition for the Homeless that is being taken on by Mary DeCoursey. Parishioners will still donate articles for the baskets and the religious education children will organize the baskets during their religious education class time. Religious education teachers will be involved as well.

Faith in a Fast-Paced World. Social media and all kinds of faith-based apps can be employed to give parishioners time for reflecting on their faith each day. Some of the apps available include:

- **Laudate.** Daily prayer and a daily bible verse can be found on this app. There are also multiple podcasts for daily meditations and the rosary. *My Prayers* lets you store your own prayers and move them between iPad and iPhone. Five Confession apps for different groups will guide one through the sacrament of reconciliation. Vatican documents such as Second Vatican Council and the Code of Canon Law can also be found on this app. In addition, daily Mass and live video stream and more can be found.
- **Daily Bible Verse.** Inspirational and uplifting bible verses and devotions can be delivered daily to your iPhone or iPad.
- **Facebook.** Some of the pages available include: Vatican news, St. Eulalia Parish, Pope Francis, and National Catholic Reporter.
- **Relevant Radio.** With the Relevant Radio App, one can have easy access to their live stream podcasts, audio prayers and stay on top of the latest news. You can also make a prayer request.
- **Dynamic Catholic.** Dynamic Catholic has a website which gives access to many sources, including one which will send a daily meditation to your e-mail address.

Mike Pescatore (Sr.) and Brian Collins will team up to put something together for the parish bulletin such as putting a notice in the bulletin each week highlighting a different link.

Parish Lending Library. Such a library would provide parishioners with knowledge and insight into their faith. It is hoped that a quiet place of solitude can be provided for some reading time. Two suggestions were made for the location of the library. One is the corridor leading to the Haddad Center. It is brightly lit from the windows along the corridor, although the stairs might prove difficult for some of the older people. The other would be at the top of the stairway to the right of the tabernacle. This space can be accessed directly from the church so there would be no steps involved. It is right next to the church which would be a peaceful place to read and meditate. Bookshelves are available and will be donated. A system can be devised for signing the books in and out. There may be books available on Centering Prayer that were donated by Michael Cunningham.

Claire McKenna has volunteered to oversee this project.

Presentations. Have a presentation, preferably during Lent, to highlight someone's good works such as Dr. James O'Connell's presentation on caring for the homeless and the presentation on *Be Like Brit*.

Welcoming Theme. Each year the parish should choose a welcoming theme and concentrate on that aspect of welcome for the year. **Acts of Kindness** has been suggested for this year's theme. The act should be something simple that does not involve too much money. Suggestions included a "move over in pew" campaign, offering a ride to someone unable to drive themselves, a big welcome sign out in front of the church so people feel they will be welcomed inside. Parishioners could be informed of the theme through the bulletin and weekly reminders could be placed in the bulletin. Other ideas were to reach out to others with a card, flowers, baked goods or a kind word. People feel better about themselves if they do something for others

Hospitality. Bring back the wine and cheese, ice cream and pizza!

Comments and Concerns

The following were the comments/concerns received:

- A parent gave positive feedback to Father Jim's homily regarding the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and how the parish protects God's children. The parent was very appreciative of the way in which Father Jim handled the issue.
- A parishioner thought that the music at the end of Mass, the "post lude," was inappropriate and did not like the selection.
- There is a need for more Ministers of Holy Communion. There is also a need for an instructional class for all Ministers of Holy Communion.

- Fr. Deshaies requested all parents bring up their children at communion time and all would be given a blessing by either himself or the Minister of Holy Communion. A question was raised as to how a Minister of Holy Communion would give a blessing. Father Jim responded that there was no prescribed way of doing it. Something like “God bless you” with one’s hand **over** a person’s head (not touching the head) would be appropriate or the sign of the cross can be made on a person’s forehead with a “God bless you.” Hand hygiene comes into play when giving out Communion and touching a person while giving a blessing.

Closing Prayer. The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell, PPC Secretary