

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
April 19, 2017

Present: Father Jim Savage, Louise Cocuzzo, Mary Deyst, John DiAngelis, Doran Donovan, Mark Earnest, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Adele Hamblett, Carol Johnson, Clare Keane, Tony Lockhart, Claire McKenna, Joan Sweeney, Charlie Vendice

Absent: Kathy Creedon, Joe Murphy

Opening Prayer: Joan Sweeney opened the meeting with a prayer by Erin Cline entitled *A Prayer after Easter*.

Minutes of Meeting:

The March 8, 2017 PPC minutes were accepted as corrected. The corrections are as follows: (1) On page 1 under the *Evangelization Committee* sub-committee report, the times on line 6 should be changed to 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for St. Eulalia's and to 7:30 p.m. for St. Mary's; (2) On page two under Finance Council, the first point made should read "It does not matter whether you complete the in-pew form in church or whether you complete it at home as long as it is completed and returned to the parish for bulk mailing."

PPC Elections

Sister Roberta, pastoral associate at Good Shepherd Parish in Wayland, was invited to speak to PPC to explain the process they use in discerning the selection of new members for PPC. The following points were provided in writing in summary of the process:

- The parish community is invited to submit names to be considered. An insert is put in the bulletin describing the role of the PPC and the qualifications for a PPC member. Encouragement is given from the pulpit to participate.
- A prayer for the guidance of the Spirit is put in the bulletin and is one of the petitions in the universal prayer.
- Present PPC members call persons whose names were submitted, inviting them to take part in a discernment evening.
- The discernment evening consists of interested persons coming together for prayer, an introduction to the workings of the PPC and questions for reflection. They are given a week to submit their intention to serve or decline to the pastor.
- The pastor and the pastoral associate discern the new members.

As this process does not involve an election of new members, words such as nominate and elect are not used. The church community's involvement consists of submission of a name(s).

The following were points made to questions asked relative to the process:

- There are no controls in place for the number of names submitted for consideration; all are considered.
- The PPC term of office is three years.
- There are ten people who serve on the council at one time with three being elected every third year.
- It is the pastor and pastoral associate who make the final decision on who is to serve on PPC. The parish participates by submitting names during the initial phase.
- The term of office is three years with no one serving back to back terms.
- Sister Roberta thinks Good Shepherd's process is less labor intensive than ours.

- The submission of names for the PPC prayer and discernment process is ended after three notices are posted in the bulletin. PPC members then call those whose names were submitted inviting them to participate.
- Names of those submitted are not published in the church bulletin.
- The parishioners have no idea of who is being considered for PPC membership.
- It would not be difficult to generate a list of the names submitted.
- As it is difficult to get a cross-section of people for consideration, the prayer and discernment process allows the pastor and pastoral assistant to better ensure this cross-section of parishioners takes place.
- In order to bring in younger people, the pastoral associate does outreach.
- Good Shepherd parish has been using this process for nine years.
- The list of submitted names is kept so that those names on it can be considered in the future.
- It was noted that in one parish a list is generated and the pastor alone appoints members.
- Young people may not be involved but their input is invaluable.
- When the pastor asks someone to serve, it is hard for a parishioner to refuse.
- The pastor is able to appoint a member from any representative group that is not represented on council.

The following thoughts were expressed during the discussion phase:

- Although parishioners are involved in the submission of names, they have no involvement in the selection of those who will represent them on PPC.
- Are our parishioners deterred from participating because there is an election?
- PPC by-laws would need to be changed if this process were adopted.
- While some parishioners may never think of participating in PPC, another person does have the opportunity to submit their name.
- A parishioner can always speak to a person they think would be a good candidate for PPC and ask if they could submit their name.
- Our parishioners may be offended if they are not allowed to vote as they have always had that right.
- Perhaps the pastor could appoint up to four parishioners as a way to get a better representation.
- There is insufficient time to implement this process for this year. The by-laws in the constitution would need to be changed.
- If this prayer/discernment process were to be implemented, PPC would need to start early to explain how this process would work.
- Having a *Coffee and Conversation* may be a way to answer parishioners' questions and meet those who are considering participating in PPC.
- Perception wise it may not be a good idea for only the pastor and pastoral associate to appoint new PPC members. It would be better if a committee were formed to do this.
- Consider creating categories as a way to insure cross-section representation. For example, there could be a category for young people, millennials, parents of religious education students, senior citizens, and a general population. Four could be nominated and two elected from each group.
- Parishioners may not want to participate because they think they would not win in an election. With categories, they would have a better chance of being elected.
- The question was raised as to whether a parishioner could only vote in their own category or could they vote in all categories. All parishioners would vote in all categories.
- As there are few times in the church where the democratic process is employed, it would be wise to let people have a choice.
- The pastor would not be comfortable in selecting PPC members along with the pastoral associate. Some other PPC members would have to be part of the process.
- What is the best way of introducing nominees to everyone?
- Any change to PPC's term of office would involve changing the constitution.

Father Jim likes the idea of categories as a way to achieve better representation on PPC. For this year, there will be three categories: 4 nominees for the youth category (2 elected), 4 nominees for the Religious Education/Family category (2 elected) and 4 nominees for the general population (2 elected). As this process does not involve any changes to our constitution, it can be initiated for this election cycle. The faith formation director and religious education coordinator for Grades 1 thru 6 should be consulted for nominations to the parents of religious education category. Rather than having Father Jim appoint two young people to council, it was decided to put their names on the ballot to allow them to be part of the process. Nominations for this cycle will take place on the weekend of May 20/21 with elections being held the weekend of June 10/11. Those eligible to serve on the election committee this year are: Adele Hamblett, Carol Johnson, Joe Murphy, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Clare Keane, Claire McKenna, Kathy Creedon, and Tony Lockhart. Those volunteering to serve are: Tony Lockhart, Claire McKenna, Adele Hamblett, Anna-Marie Ferrero and Carol Johnson. The PPC chairperson, Anna-Marie Ferrero, will perform any necessary clerical work for the committee. A suggestion was made to modify Good Shepherd's PPCs name submittal form to use as our nomination form.

Pastor Update

Father Jim thanked all for a beautiful Triduum. The church renovation project will take place this summer. Father has found a company that will take care of all facets of the renovation process: carpeting, replacement of kneelers, cleaning of the pews along with pads for the pews and the painting of the church. As part of the package, wires will be run under the carpeting so that hearing-impaired people will be able to hear from their own hearing aids. Money from the Capital Campaign will cover the cost of this work and it should take approximately four weeks to complete.

Winchester Town Day

Winchester Town Day will take place on June 3, 2017. St. Mary's is looking for parishioners from St. Eulalia's to assist them. As young people are especially being sought, our director of faith formation should be involved in the recruiting process. Volunteers need to be at the church booth prior to 9 a.m. Volunteers from PPC include Charlie Vendice, Clare Keane, and Mary Deyst. St. Mary's will take care of the booth set up and a joint sign will be used. Who will make the lemonade? We will provide our bulletins, religious education information and any other materials available.

Sub Committee Reports

Evangelization Committee. No report is available. Our faith formation director is currently providing us with an evangelization column in the bulletin.

Finance Council. OSR: 2017 pledges through the end of February total \$822,662 from 654 donors, compared to \$793,000 from 693 donors last year at the same time. Net income for the current fiscal year is \$109,000 through the end of February.

Catholic Appeal: Pledges to date total \$114,262, 113% of our goal of \$101,480. Total numbers of donors is 277. In pew pledges total 207, exceeding our goal of 135. If all pledges are paid, our parish rebate will be \$29,723. We are one of only 48 parishes that have met or exceeded their goal at this point.

Hospitality Committee. The Pancake Breakfast held on April 9 drew an amazing crowd of approximately 300 people. Lori Pescatore with help from her family and friends ran the event. It is thought that this event should take place annually at the same time of year—Palm Sunday. No free-will contributions were solicited.

The Bannons hosted another *Coffee and Conversation* on Sunday, April 2. An ice cream social and wine and cheese event are being planned. It was suggested that having juice and donut holes be reinstated after the grade Masses held once a month during the school year.

Liturgy and Social Justice. The following will take place:

- April 23, 2017—Mercy Sunday from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the church
- April 29, 2017—Appreciation Night
- April 29, 2017 and May 6, 2017—First Communion
- May 7, 2017—Thanksgiving Mass for First Communicants and the Crowning of the Blessed Mother
- May 7, 2017--Father Tom Nestor Scholarship awards at the 5 p.m. Mass

Comments and Concerns

The following comments and concerns were received through the suggestion box:

- There should be a water bubbler/fountain in the foyer.
- A thank you note was received for posting PPC minutes on the website. (Minutes should continue to be placed in the book rack in the foyer of the church.)

Closing Prayer

Father Jim closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Connell, PPC Secretary