

CHURCH OF ST. EULALIA
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2012

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Nestor, Louise Cocuzzo, Michael Angotti, Matt Calvey, Mary Fiorentino, Paul Kenrick, Jean Nolan, Moira Ounjian, Peter Pongratz, Andrew Regan, Stephanie Rogers, Phil Waterman, John Casey

ABSENT: Kathryn Davis, Jan Dolan, Marge McGlone

GUESTS: Deacon Kevin Vermette, Pat Waterman

The meeting was opened with a prayer and Scripture reading by Mary Fiorentino. A brief meditation and discussion followed.

The January 18, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

COMMISSION AND MINISTRY REPORTS

FINANCE – John Casey reported that the FC met with an Archdiocesan representative to discuss the “Improved Financial Relationship Model” (IFRM). This new program is currently in phase 2 and finance members have already attended two informational sessions on this program. After finishing their review of the program the council decided to wait and join the program in July 2013. The program will be mandatory for all parishes at that time. The council felt that joining any earlier would be disruptive to the Capital Campaign and OSR.

OSR receipts and pledges through January continue to be lower than the same period last year: receipts down by \$46,000; pledges down by 60. Donations are also lower than last year down by \$25,000. Cash donations are difficult to track because they come from different sources, i.e., collection box, bequests, etc. Someone raised the question that perhaps donations are down because of the decline in Mass participation. With John Russo’s and the entire staff’s help, expenses through January are 8% below the budgeted amount for this period.

LITURGY – Louise Cocuzzo reported that preparation is underway for Lenten programs. Plans are being made for a special 5:00 p.m. Mass program for teens. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction is being planned for the fall for elementary and high school students. It was suggested that instruction on Adoration and Benediction are offered because many people don’t understand the rite. Deacon Kevin mentioned that Adoration is held at the Seminary on a daily basis.

SUB-COMMITTEES

- Evangelization – Paul Kenrick announced that the committee will meet on February 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare an agenda for Fr. Robert River’s visit and presentation. Paul circulated a sign-up sheet to determine attendance for the meeting.
- Parish Life Enhancement – Stephanie Rogers reported that the committee has agreed to reestablish “Coffee and Conversation” after various Masses on a monthly basis, beginning with February 19 after the 7:30 a.m. Mass. Announcements will appear in the bulletin and be mentioned at Mass. Greeters will also call attention to the coffees as parishioners enter. There will also be a visible laminated sign calling people’s attention. Lemonade after Masses

for July and August was mentioned but can only happen with volunteers to help. A ministry fair is planned for September 15/16 with a video on parish life to be shown to encourage participation.

- Religious Education – Andrew Regan – No report.
- Communications – Peter Pongratz is happy to chair the committee but needs help. He suggested the following topics as possibilities for discussion:
 - Silence in the nave;
 - Display a Crucifix;
 - Obvious shrine to the Blessed Virgin;
 - Kneelers to improve reverence to the Eucharist;
 - Adult education.

NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

Parish Collaboration – Father Tom distributed the Archdiocesan proposed plan for parish collaboration. Father emphasized that everything being talked about on collaboration is still in the proposal stage. Criteria for proposed collaboratives were based on geography, income, and sacramental index, etc. St. Mary's and St. Eulalia's will work together. An Archdiocesan consultation meeting to encourage feedback from PPC's and FC's from Vicariates 3 and 4 will be held at St. Camillus in Arlington on February 4. Michael Angotti proposed a few questions on how St. Eulalia's should be prepared for the meeting at St. Camillus:

- What can we as FC/PPC members do to help our parish more forward?
- What should we be doing for the parish in response to the information made available to date?

The following comments and observations were made in view of collaboration.

- St Eulalia is in a good position to ease concerns as parishioners' questions arise;
- Be more specific about what St. Eulalia's attributes are;
- Some people feel that both parishes will be ruined;
- Resistance is due to ignorance. Communicate to parishioners as much information as possible;
- Put a "Frequently Asked Questions" section in the weekly bulletin;
- Territorial demographics is an issue;
- The more information made available the better. Include items from the Archdiocesan Proposed Plan document;
- How will changes affect practices of regular parishioners;
- Changes in parish administration will be most difficult. The possibility of Fr. Tom and Fr. Dick leaving the respective parishes to be replaced by a pastor from "outside". Why does this have to happen?
- Hold small gatherings for parishioners to express their feelings/fears;
- Form an advisory committee to assist Fr. Tom on responding to questions regarding the structure of the collaboration;
- Assess the programs of the parish to make recommendations to the new Pastoral Service Team as to what is successful and what isn't;
- There are many harsh realities related to all the above items

REMINDER DATES

- Mardi Gras cancelled because it coincides with school vacation week.
- Blood Drive – March 31 – Frank Lombardo will contact PPC members for volunteers.
- Archdiocesan Consultation meeting – St. Camillus – February 9.
- Joint Meeting with St. Mary's PPC at St. Eulalia's on March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

A sign-up sheet was distributed for PPC representation at the week-end Masses on March 10/11. Two or more people per Mass would be great.

PARISHIONERS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

- A place of honor is needed in church for the Blessed Mother. Father Tom will make the final decision with advice from the PPC Communications Sub-Committee.
- Some people are disturbed that the Foxwoods gambling trip is announced in the bulletin.
- Why does the processional hymn continue after two verses?
- Lighting is poor at the rear of the church.
- Publish a weekly reminder of Mass schedules for surrounding churches.
- Confusion over readings not matching what is posted.
- Silence is needed before Mass always (as in Lent) for meditation.
- Offer additional early Christmas Eve day Masses for families with young children
- Send a welcome to the new Greystone development occupants in Winchester. Addresses should be available through the town Assessor's office.
- If reprinting the laminated cards with changes in the Liturgy wording, changes should be highlighted.
- Mount small Holy Water fonts at the side entrance doors for accessibility.
- Install a bench at the outdoor Blessed Mother shrine.

Father Tom closed the meeting with a prayer to the Holy Spirit for enlightenment especially as we move forward and make decisions regarding the new collaboratives.

Respectfully submitted,
Dolores Mullin, Secretary