

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
January 9, 2013

Present: Father Jim Savage, Michael Angotti, Dick Briand, Matt Calvey, Louise Cocuzzo, Maria Constantino, Kathryn Davis, Jan Dolan, Paul Kenrick, Marge McGlone, Jean Nolan, Moira Ounjian, Peter Pongratz, John Russo, Raina Trilokekar and Phil Waterman

Absent: Mary Fiorentino

Scripture Reading: The meeting opened with a prayer. Raina Trilokekar read a passage from scripture and a brief meditation and discussion followed.

Approval of Minutes

In order for the PPC meeting minutes to remain true to the proceedings, it was agreed that any extra material (not actually discussed at the meeting) be removed from the minutes and, as appropriate, be included as an addendum to the proceedings (noting the source accordingly). By doing so, such additional information, intended as a means to offer additional insight and increase communications with parishioners who read the minutes, can be conveyed without introducing confusion about what was discussed at the PPC session. The November 14, 2012 minutes were accepted as amended.

PPC Meeting Dates

The following are dates related to upcoming PPC meetings:

February 6, 2013 PPC Executive Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

February 20, 2013 PPC meeting at 7 p.m. in the McGann Conference Room

Commission Reports

Finance Council. Since the Finance Council has not met since our last PPC meeting, there were no updates.

Christian Service Food Collection. There were 1,418 bags of non-perishable food collected at St. Eulalia's this past year, 118 bags over what was collected last year. The monetary contribution was in the amount of \$13,638, down a \$1,000 from last year. The food pantries that we donate to on a rotating basis are: The Bistol Lodge in Waltham, Project Soup in Somerville, Haley House in Boston, Bread of Life in Malden, the Woburn Council of Social Concern in Woburn, and St. Matthew's in Dorchester.

Liturgy. A recent St. Eulalia staff meeting centered on the current flu epidemic and what precautions the parish should take to prevent its spread. There were three that were adopted: 1) the holy water will be removed from the fonts, 2) the hand shaking at the *Sign of Peace* will be eliminated, and 3) there will be no cup at either daily Mass or at Sunday Mass. The presider at this Sunday's Masses will make these announcements. It is hoped that all of the above will be put back in place by Palm Sunday.

Appreciation Night this year will be on February 9, 2013. It will be a buffet and there will be interactive activities, such as games which are being introduced to get people more engaged. A new disc jockey is being sought as well. A sign-up sheet is to be circulated amongst PPC members for the purpose of having people to sell tickets for liquid refreshments and for greeters to welcome parishioners.

Sub Committee Reports

Evangelization Committee. The committee meeting on December 11, 2012 was well attended and a lively discussion ensued on where the committee should focus its attention. Explored was the question of whether the committee should concentrate on parish enhancement or whether to move towards bringing inactive Catholics back to the parish. There was no discussion at the time of evangelizing non-Catholics. And there was no immediate decision reached as to where the focus should be. Rather, it was decided that the committee should have a *Day of Prayer* to help them discern the direction they should take. The chairperson, Paul Kenrick, would also survey the committee membership for their thoughts on what the committee should next undertake.

The *What would enhance your faith?* survey results was broken down by ministry category. Paul Kenrick as committee chairperson would discuss the findings with Father Savage and Louise Cocuzzo and make a decision as to whom the findings should be given to. Results from the survey, when ready, will be published in the bulletin.

Parish Life Enhancement. Kathryn Davis reports for this committee that they last met in December and clarified their goal which is to provide opportunities for parishioners to interact with one another, especially after Mass. The committee plans to show a movie in March. Stephanie Rogers, the chairperson of Parish Life Enhancement Committee, worked with the Spiritual Committee to bring about a *Retreat Day on Forgiveness* which is planned for March 9.

Religious Education Committee. As the Religious Education Committee overlaps with the Parish Life Enhancement Committee, the two committees have merged and will be henceforth known as the Parish Life Enhancement Committee.

Communications Committee. There were no new issues identified or addressed.

New Business

Flu Precautions. Father Savage believes it prudent to adopt the archdiocesan policy of refraining from shaking hands at the *Sign of Peace*, removing the holy water from the holy water fonts, and receiving Eucharist under only one species. Of the three, Father Savage thinks receiving under both species, which he strongly supports, is the least likely to cause a health problem.

PPC Elections. There were issues reported in last year's PPC elections and it was thought that these same irregularities were also prevalent in recent-year elections. With the current system of ballots being placed in the pews, anyone can vote, even non-registered parishioners, and they can

vote more than once. It was witnessed that aggressive and undesired campaigning was being conducted on behalf of some candidates while people had their ballots in hand. Write-ins were an issue in the nomination process. It was recommended that elections be conducted earlier and there be a timetable so that there is sufficient time for nominations, sufficient time for nominees to write their biographies and sufficient time for nominees to have their pictures taken.

A discussion ensued with the following points being made:

- Only registered parishioners should be allowed to vote. This would be difficult to determine.
- Give ballots to parishioners as they came into Mass.
- Another thought that they should be asked if they would like a ballot. Still another thought that the parishioner should be offered the ballot and felt the person would let you know if they did not want to take it.
- Pick up the extra ballots left in pews after each Mass.
- Nominees could stand by their pictures before Mass if they wished.
- Nominees could be given an opportunity to be available (perhaps after their choice of Masses) to meet with parishioners – standing by their picture/write-up.
- It would be helpful if the nominees' pictures could be placed on the ballot by their names.
- Only those thought to be 18 years or older should receive a ballot. (You have to be 18 years of age to be elected to PPC.)
- No one should pick up a ballot for another person.
- Ballots should be returned to the OSR boxes not left in a basket provided.
- It was noted that the PPC Charter did provide a timetable for the election process but it was too tight on time. The process should begin in February.

It was recommended and adopted that the Executive Committee review the PPC Charter and develop a calendar for PPC elections.

Fiftieth Anniversary 2016. St. Eulalia's staff is currently working to make this an exceptional event. Questions being asked include: Should it be a single event or a whole year of celebrations? Should there be a dinner? a special Mass? a couples' dance? Should pictures from throughout the parish's history be sought? Should events from the parish's past be brought back such as a talent show and/or a fashion show? Should there be a presentation (video) made to show the parish's history using pictures and videos that parishioners provide? PPC members were asked to think about whether any of them would like to undertake or participate in a St. Eulalia Parish 50th Anniversary committee.

Lenten/Spring Faith Sharing. This Lent, the parish will be using **Why Catholic?** for its Lenten faith sharing groups. It is similar to the **ARISE** program used previously. The basic difference between the two programs is that **ARISE** is scripture based and **Why Catholic?** is doctrine based. Adele Hamblett has sent an e-mail to former faith sharing group leaders asking if they would be interested in leading groups this Lenten season. Archdiocesan training sessions will be held on January 24 (at St. Mary of the Annunciation in Melrose from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.) and January 26 (at St. Augustine's in Andover from 10 a.m. until 12 noon) and at various other locations.

New Topics

Social Media). As people today do not generally use paper mediums for information, it was suggested that we advertise events through Facebook or other social media. Also suggested was the collection of e-mail addresses of people who come to parish events and use that archive to notify them of other parish events taking place. It was quickly pointed out that an e-mail archive would quickly get outdated. Another recommendation was made to engage a Media Coordinator for the parish. This topic was to be further discussed at an Executive Board meeting and ideas brought back to the PPC for further discussion.

Reminder Dates

January 10, 2013—Presentation on Catholic Morality at St. Irene’s Parish Hall, 181 East Street, Concord, MA

February 9, 2013—St. Eulalia Parish Appreciation Night

February 13, 2013—Ash Wednesday

March 9, 2013—Retreat Day on Forgiveness

March 29, 2013—Good Friday

March 31, 2013—Easter

2012 – 2013—Year of Faith to be viewed virtually at www.BostonCatholicLive.com

April 26 – May 10, 2013—Parish Pilgrimage to Holy Land with Father Jim Savage

Spring 2013—Planning the Parish Directory

Parishioners’ Comments and Concerns

- Some parishioners would prefer that the vigil Mass for New Year’s Day be at 5:30 p.m. instead of the change to 4 p.m. this year as some people work and are not able to attend. (It was thought that most people do not work on New Year’s Day and that the elderly like the earlier Mass at 4 p.m. to take advantage of the “early bird” specials. There were two Masses on New Year’s Day: 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. that parishioners could attend.)
- There was an inquiry as to where/when the Benefactor’s List or plaques would be placed in the church since the renovations have been completed.
- Some concerns were voiced regarding the flu season and precautions.
- A parishioner found it difficult to drop off clothing at the parish St. Vincent DePaul box as the cones were placed in such a way as to prohibit cars to stop right at the donation box.
- It was thought by a parishioner that the Christmas Crèche should be closer to the street for all to see. Where it is currently placed is too far back and not visible from the street.
- A question was asked as to why we do not sing all verses of a hymn.
- A parishioner stated that we should “never let Father Savage go!”
- Would there be a possibility that all the surrounding parishes could rotate having one evening Mass during Lent? It was also asked if we could have an evening Mass during Lent.
- A question was asked as to whether we could designate reserved seating for the disabled at funeral Masses.

- A spokesperson for families with young children does not want children at the 9 a.m. Family Mass to be dismissed from Mass to go down to Manion Hall. If it is a family Mass, then the family should remain together.
- An inquiry was made as to whether there could be contemporary music played at the 9 a.m. Mass.
- A parishioner is concerned that not all comments are brought to the attention of the PPC. People from the parish would like to be able to attend PPC. (PPC is open to all parishioners. If parishioners wish to speak at meetings, then the PPC vice-chairperson would need to know ahead of time.)
- A parishioner would like to see the music at the 5 p.m. Mass improved.
- Some Eucharistic Ministers are not giving out Communion correctly.
- RCIA would be better if more scripture based.
- Is it possible for parishioners to meet with PPC nominees?
- A parishioner asked whether the doors at the back of the church could be closed during Mass.

Closing Comments by Father Savage

Father encouraged all of us to attend Appreciation Night and to encourage all those who volunteer in the parish to attend.

Father Savage will continue the collaboration with St. Mary's Winchester and speak with Father Messina sometime soon.

The PPC meeting closed with a prayer by Father Jim.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell
PPC Secretary