

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
May 18, 2016

Present: Father Jim Savage, Louise Cocuzzo, Maria Constantino, Kathy Creedon, Mary Deyst, John DiAngelis, Doran Donovan, Mark Earnest, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Carol Johnson, Tony Lockhart, Joan Sweeney, Raina Trilokekar, Charlie Vendice

Absent: Joe Murphy, Karen Marnik (APC Representative)

Opening Prayer: Joan Sweeney opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of Meeting:

The April 6, 2016 PPC minutes were accepted as corrected. The corrections are as follows: (1) On page 1 under *Pastor Update* paragraph 2 the last line should include the following “either gold or silver leaf;” (2) The sentence that reads “Marilyn Poole will do a presentation with the . . .” should be removed and replaced with “Marilyn Poole has done a project on the life of St. Eulalia with her Grade 1 and 2 religious education students as part of the 50th anniversary year. The result is a book on the saint’s life which is now on display in the church foyer.” (3) On page 2 in the *Liturgy and Social Justice* paragraph bullet 2, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy should be added to the Mercy Sunday devotions.

Pastor Update

Father Jim reported that the parish’s 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage was a grace-filled experience for all those who participated and was well worth doing. The group found Lourdes very moving and participated in two international Masses and many participated in the sacrament of reconciliation and took advantage of the “baths.” The pilgrims then went to the home of St. Ignatius of Loyola and on to Barcelona to visit the tomb of St. Eulalia where Father Jim said Mass. Father thought the experience had a significant spiritual impact on all.

The St. Paul’s Boys Choir concert was wonderful. Because of the acoustics in the church, the sound was different than if you heard the choir perform at St. Paul’s in Cambridge. The next event is the trip to the Holy Door at the Cathedral which will take place on June 5 and will include a visit to St. Brigid’s in South Boston and a stop at Castle Island for refreshments.

Father’s latest update on church renovations included the work to be done on the back wall behind the tabernacle area of the church. The back wall will be comprised of all ceramic tile—dark blue with silver, gold and white emanating from the level at and just above the tabernacle. Once the wall is completed it will then be determined whether the existing tabernacle should be refurbished in silver or gold leaf. This work is expected to be installed the first week in August and has been donated by the family of Jerry Ross in his memory. The area will be blessed by the cardinal when he says the anniversary Mass in October. How the floor of the church will be updated has still not been decided. However, the acoustic consideration is significant and must be taken into consideration. It is now thought that tile might interfere with the acoustics and if decided upon, we may have to use acoustic tile. Carpeting is being looked at again with the thought of using a carpet that has a design at least for down the aisles. It may be that the flooring will not be completed this year but, if not, it will be done next year. The altar platform will be done in stone.

In commemoration of Cardinal Cushing's blessing St. Eulalia's cornerstone on Monday, May 23, 1966, Father Jim will re-bless the cornerstone on Monday, May 23, 2016 immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass. While construction of the church began in 1964, it was not blessed until 1966.

Sub Committee Reports

PPC Elections. The chairperson of this committee began by thanking all the volunteers who assisted her in this undertaking. This year at election time, only nine people ran for the council. Many people withdrew their names at the last minute after committing to run for PPC. Five hundred parishioners voted in the election and 200 voted in the nomination process. All newly elected PPC members were informed of the June 8 meeting. It is expected that Father Jim will make some appointments to PPC.

Archdiocesan Parish Council (APC). The APC last met on May 16. At that meeting, Father Mark O'Connell, Judicial Vicar, gave a lengthy presentation offering an interpretation of Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). Father Mark stressed that we should read and undertake discussion at the parish level regarding how we can accompany families in light of this apostolic exhortation, which is not black and white. There are workshops being offered to all priests to address how to approach confession in light of this document and there will soon be workshops for lay people as well who desire to better understand this teaching and its application.

Also presenting was Father Soper who gave an update on pastoral planning. He mentioned several examples of things that are working very well. One example was faith formation in Methuen. They revised CCD to meet for 30 minutes before the family Mass and then for 45 minutes afterwards. It ensured that Mass was part of the children's faith formation, addressing the common problem of children who attend CCD but never attend Mass. It has been very successful. Father Soper encouraged us to share with our parishes the Cranberry Collaboratives' *Where Are We?* three page summary, which can be found on the web page for Disciples in Mission. A heads up that although the pace of collaborative slowed to allow some reflection on the process, there will be a large push to finish this work over the next 2-3 years with perhaps 20 groups entering collaborative each year. Boston has been visited by the Archdiocese of Chicago, which also needs to streamline and wants to learn from our experience.

In addition, Bishop Uglietto talked briefly about the Archdiocesan Renewal Project. Recommendations will be forthcoming on how to make the best use of central resources given the need for collaboration throughout the archdiocese.

The next APC meeting will be October 18, 2016.

Collaboration Committee. St. Eulalia's and St. Mary's will sponsor a booth at Winchester's Town Day to be held on June 4. There was a joint meeting held to plan for this event. The Men's Club will help. Pope Francis prayer cards, a Collaboration Corner newsletter and lemonade, provided by St. Mary's, will be handed out. It was suggested that religious education information also be disseminated. St. Eulalia's vice chairperson will speak to the two religious education directors about getting some information together for town day.

The question was raised as to whether we, too, should have a collaboration newsletter. As collaboration will not actually take place until sometime between 2017 and 2019, the idea was not pursued at this time.

Evangelization Committee. April 27, 2016 was the last time this committee met. It was suggested that the *Acts of Mercy* cards to be given out at St. Eulalia's on Mercy Sunday also be handed out at Winchester Town Day. This committee will again meet on Wednesday, May 25.

Finance Council. The May meeting is not scheduled until May 31, but we have received April financial reports. OSR pledges to date total 710, compared to 771 at the same time last year. OSR dollars pledged to date are \$806,500, compared to \$840,900 last year at this time.

OSR actual donations paid to date total \$462,846, compared to \$357,084 last year.

Expenses are running 5% above budget and 1.25% over last year.

Catholic Appeal is currently 119% of goal, from 303 donors. Total pledges is \$112,695, with \$41,251 remaining to be paid. If all outstanding balances are paid, our parish rebate will be \$29,862 or about \$10,000 greater than last year's rebate.

Hospitality Committee. The Coffee and Conversation held on May 1 was well attended. The chairperson plans on exploring the options of having coffee and/or lemonade or ice cream during the summer. Doran Donovan along with Lori Pescatore will organize the Fall Festival and get started in July.

Liturgy and Social Justice. May 29 is the feast of Corpus Christi and will be celebrated with an indoor procession after the 11 a.m. Mass and an outdoor procession to Wright-Locke Farm after the 5 p.m. Mass. There will be a bagpiper for the outdoor procession and four men will be needed to carry the canopy. Mark Earnest volunteered to assist with that. On June 5 at the 5 p.m. Mass the Father Tom Nestor Scholarships (five in all) will be presented to the recipients by Father Tom.

The pastoral associate raised the question of whether the midnight Mass at Christmas could be celebrated earlier in the evening. St. Agnes in Arlington celebrates theirs at 8 p.m. and St. Mary's Winchester celebrates theirs at 10 p.m. Should we celebrate at 9 p.m.? The following comments ensued:

- The choir is split evenly on the issue.
- Midnight Mass is sufficiently well attended to continue the practice.
- Midnight Mass attracts a younger crowd.
- Could the choir be there at 9 p.m.?
- The contemporary choir would be able to do the Mass.
- Survey parishioners via the bulletin using a tear-off sheet as to how many prefer midnight Mass or having it at 9 p.m. Preface the question to read: "If you regularly attend midnight Mass, what Mass time would you prefer midnight or 9 p.m.?"
- Nine o'clock is a bit early; ten o'clock would be better—10:30p.m. or 11 p.m.

Other Business

Fall Festival. The date for this year's Fall Festival, September 18, has been moved back a week in the hopes of attracting more people. It will take place the same day as the reunion of all those children, now adults, who ever participated in the Children's Choir. The reunion will take place at the 11 a.m. Mass on Fall Festival Sunday along with the blessing for all PPC members for the coming year.

The committee is looking for activities that will make it stand out from other years as this is part of the 50th anniversary celebration. The following suggestions were mentioned:

- We could serve a 50th Anniversary Burger with an onion halo or gold cheese.
- “Bubble Man” should be hired for the event.
- Gold chocolate coins should be handed out.
- Kids should be included on the committee.

Other ideas should be e-mailed to Doran Donovan.

The PPC end of the year pot luck/barbecue supper will take place on Friday, June 17, at the “white house” at 6 p.m. Pot luck sign-ups will take place at PPC’s June 8 meeting. Membership thought it better to keep this event separate from the June 20 VOTF barbeque in honor of priests.

Comments and Concerns

The following comments and concerns were received by PPC members at Mass and through the suggestion box provided:

- It was suggested that we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Monday thru Friday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.
- We should have a steeple with a spire placed on the roof of the church.
- A parishioner requested a kneeler be placed in front of the votive candles.
- Flowers should be placed in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother.
- OSR monthly updates should continue to be placed in the bulletin. Response: Anna Marie Ferraro will take responsibility for the OSR bulletin announcements.

Closing Prayer

Father Jim closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell
PPC Secretary