

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
April 9, 2014

Present: Father Jim Savage, Eva Arnott, Brian Burke, Louise Cocuzzo, Maria Constantino, Kathryn Davis, Paul Kenrick, Joe Murphy, Moira Ounjian, Peter Pongratz, Frances Shawcross (St. Mary/St. Eulalia Collaborative Representative), Raina Trilokekar, Bob Valeri

Absent: Carol Johnson, Frank Lombardo (St. Eulalia/St. Mary Collaborative Representative), Dolores Mullin

Opening Prayer: Paul Kenrick led PPC in an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes March 2014 PPC meeting were accepted as amended. The following corrections were made to the March minutes:

- On page 1, the name of Dick Briand should be removed from the list of those present at the March meeting.
- On page 2 under St. Eulalia/St. Mary Collaboration Committee, the time of the meeting on September 21, 2014 should be corrected to read from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Commission Reports

Finance Council. There was no member of the Finance Council present. Peter Pongratz (the PPC Vice Chairperson), who was given a brief written report from Cheryl Pongratz (the Parish Business Manager), offered the following information: Pledges were down by 100 as compared to this time last year and actual dollars collected to date were down \$88,000 as compared to this time last year.

Liturgy.

It was reported by Louise Cocuzzo that the parish mission was a huge success with hundreds of parishioners and visitors in attendance from St. Mary's Winchester and other locations. After each mission presentation, mission participants were invited to go to Manion Hall and reflect on the presentation. Donna DiFonzo facilitated this reflection each evening using questions prepared by Father Horan. Those that participated in the post-mission discussions each evening were further enriched by the experience.

There were approximately 175 volunteers who attended Appreciation Night. There were numerous activities that all in attendance could participate in. The Irish Step Dancers who practice in Manion Hall donated their time to perform at Appreciation Night. Many people commented on the exceptionally beautiful decorations.

The Healing Mass that takes place the first Monday of every month is going well and is well attended. Some are coming from other parishes. There are not many, however, who attend the support sessions after the Mass. Father will continue to anoint the sick outside of the Healing Mass as needed.

The Fall Festival (annual picnic) will be held on September 14, 2014 this year. The blessing of the Religious Education teachers will take place on September 21, 2014 and the 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Masses. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place after the 9 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday, April 27, 2014. It was suggested that a date and time be identified for the installation of new PPC members.

Dennis Gaudet, a member of the Evangelization Committee working on increasing the number of greeters, had 12 new people respond. He is especially interested in recruiting families to act as greeters. Stephanie Rogers, the Director of Religious Education, sent an e-mail to families in the Religious Education Program at the request of Brian Burke, a PPC member, inviting families to act as greeters. It was thought that asking individuals/families one on one makes a difference in the number who actually volunteer. Training was provided for both new and current greeters.

There is a lector workshop being planned for after Easter. Father Jim would be the presenter. It was suggested that advanced notice be given of the date in order to insure maximum participation.

There are four applicants for Father Tom's scholarship. The scholarship committee will be meeting soon to determine the recipient. It is hoped that Father Tom will be available to present the scholarship.

Sub Committee Reports

Evangelization Committee. After looking at the possibility of canvassing the parish during the Advent/Christmas season, it was decided not to undertake this initiative at the present time. It would require a tremendous number of volunteers to deliver materials door-to-door and the committee would need to know the parish boundaries. The committee will look at other ways to bring non-attending parishioners back to the church. This committee is requesting that Father Jim meet with them on a regular basis.

The chairperson of the Evangelization Committee, Paul Kenrick, attended the *Disciples in the Vineyard* workshop recently and was very impressed with the featured speaker who spoke on the topic of evangelization. The speaker's book, **Rebuilt**, offers many suggestions and insights into bringing the faithful back to church. There were three necessary components to doing that: 1) good music, 2) the same message heard from priests at every Mass, and 3) greeters in the parking lot. It was suggested that the parish take out a 2 inch add in the **Times** to help make people aware of our liturgy services and to invite them to join our parish community.

Parish Life Enhancement Committee. Because of Deacon Michael's surgery, the Soup and Stations planned had to be cancelled. The committee is working to have Father Jim do a presentation on icons.

St. Eulalia/St. Mary PPC Collaboration Committee. Many parishioners from St. Mary's attended our Lenten mission. Women in both parishes are being invited to attend an afternoon tea on April 26, 2014 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in St. Mary's school hall. This is a religious event with the topic being mercy.

An information sheet being made available to advertise a meeting of the St. Eulalia and St. Mary Collaborative that will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2014 from 6:30 until 8 p.m. The session is intended for PPC members and other Parish staff members.

The collaboration committee is looking for new members to replace those members from St. Eulalia's whose PPC terms have expired. Committee members do not have to be on PPC. It is hoped that at least one of the new members will be from Arlington. The next meeting will be in June. Eva Arnott volunteered for the committee if she was needed. It is hoped that some younger parishioners would volunteer.

Once again this year, St. Eulalia/St. Mary parishes will share a booth at Winchester Town Day, June 7, 2014. Lemonade will be served.

Communications Committee. As this committee views its role as one of hospitable outreach, the question was raised as to whether this committee should merge with the Parish Enhancement Committee as their roles are overlapping. Some PPC members see the communication committee as technical support and a means of advertising events while the committee itself sees that as just an aspect of its work. The committee would like to attract younger people to work on the committee and use their expertise for technical matters and explore with them how the parish might be more hospitable. Below are some suggestions from PPC members:

- Outreach should be made to parents of newly baptized babies on a regular basis. Newly baptized babies could be held up for welcoming at a Mass the Sunday following the babies' baptism.
- Father Jim could place a welcoming message on a post it note and affix it to the Sunday bulletin that is sent to new parishioners and to those others we reach out to.
- A reception could be held for newly registered parishioners.
- Have a reception for families of newly baptized children.
- Institute a blessing of children at the end of Mass.

Bob Valeri volunteered to chair the newly formed Hospitality Committee. He will organize the suggestions made, recruit others for the committee and have the committee explore other ways that we can be hospitable. The target audience needs to be identified. It was suggested that the hospitality chair contact Jared Blake, the Youth Ministry Coordinator, to see if any young adults would be interested in serving on this committee. Religious Education teachers could also be asked to provide names. Also suggested was for the chairperson to research whether a posting could be made on Arlington cable and to research other advertising strategies. The contact people on the Ministry Worksheet should be contacted and made aware of this new committee. Both Peter Pongratz and Brian Burke volunteered to be on this newly formed committee. It was asked that the PPC be copied on any e-mails that were sent from this committee. Father Jim will need to inform the parish of this new committee. Again, the concern was brought up about the overlapping of the Enhancement, Communications, and the newly formed Hospitality Committee. Each of these sub-committees have a distinct yet complementary role in the parish.

Elections. It was suggested by Moira Ounjian (the chairperson of this committee) that we actively invite those we think would make good candidates for PPC and nominate them. The nomination balloting will take place the weekend of May 10/11. Help was solicited for the final election weekend of May 31 and June 1 as ballots needed to be handed out at each Mass.

Fiftieth Anniversary/Planning Initiative. Carol Johnson met with Father Jim. As far as can be determined, there is no parish plan in existence. Creating one is not a priority right now as parish collaboration is ongoing.

The cardinal will say the fiftieth anniversary Mass the third Sunday in October 2016 barring any emergencies. A group of volunteers have offered to assist in this area. They will be contacted after the Easter season to start planning the full set of 50th anniversary year events. PPC will be kept informed.

New Business

Year in Review. It was thought that there had been a lot of good discussion and that events such as the Fall Festival and Appreciation Night had all gone well.

It was suggested for next year that the chairpersons or organizers of the various ministries throughout the parish report to PPC in some quarterly or bi-annual frequency on what was happening on their ministries. It would provide PPC with a sense of what the parish is feeling and thinking. It was further suggested that we have a clipboard for meeting dates for both PPC meetings and parish committee meetings.

Noted was a drop in parish membership. The drop is possibly due to older parishioners dying and new residents not joining the parish community. Long ago Catholic culture was insular; today that is not the case.

Other Topics. Please let the vice chairperson know if you have any topics that you would like to discuss at the next meeting.

It was suggested that the date for the Fall Festival be examined so that it does not conflict with any other Religious Education event.

Arlington Town Day is generally the third Saturday in September.

Pastor's Corner. Father Jim requested that we encourage friends and parishioners to attend Holy Week services that begin with Palm Sunday.

Reminder Dates.

- PPC Executive Committee Meeting—Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 7 p.m.—PPC members are invited to attend.
- PPC March Meeting—Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 7 p.m. McGann Conference Room

Parishioners' Comments and Concerns

- A parent reported that the Religious Education classrooms were not being cleaned as well as last year. Also, the floor in Manion Hall and the bathrooms are not clean. The carpet in the church needs to be replaced.
- Two original parishioners, a husband and wife, heard that the church organ pipes were going to be covered. Over the years the pipes have been moved from front to back and then to the front again. They like the striking impression they make as currently constituted and wanted to make their objection known.
- A parishioner asked that less incense be used during the Masses. She indicated she has made the suggestion in the past and wanted to make it again. She said she and her grandchildren have allergies and their throats get dry when incense is used. She reported that it also recently affected a lector who was unable to sing due to the incense.
- One parishioner inquired as to what can be done about the empty seats at Mass.

It was noted that Dolores Mullin, one of our PPC members, was recently hospitalized. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell
PPC Secretary