

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
April 15, 2015

Present: Father Jim Savage, Eva Arnott, Brian Burke, Louise Cocuzzo, Maria Constantino, Kathy Creedon, Doran Donovan, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Susan Foohey, Carol Johnson, Paul Kenrick, Tony Lockhart, Karen Marnik (APC Representative), Dolores Mullin, Joe Murphy, Frances Shawcross (St. Mary/St. Eulalia Collaborative Representative), Raina Trilokekar, Bob Valeri.

Absent: Peter Bujwid, Frank Lombardo (St. Eulalia/St. Mary Collaborative Representative)

Opening Prayer: Eva Arnott opened the meeting with the reading of *Resistance Fantasies*.

Minutes of Meeting: The March 11, 2015 PPC Minutes were accepted as corrected. The corrections were as follows: 1) Dolores Mullin's last name should be spelled with an "i" not an "e"; 2) On page 3 under Collaborative Committee, Sunday should be corrected to read Saturday; 3) On page 3 under PPC Comments, Comment 2 should be reworded to show that a sign posted. . . was a suggestion.

Pastor Update

The following reflections and information were expressed by Father Jim:

- He was happy to see so many at Appreciation Night.
- He thought the Easter Triduum was very uplifting and hoped everyone experienced the same.
- The parish's Fiftieth Anniversary trip to Lourdes and Barcelona has been solidified. We are awaiting the brochures.
- The anniversary speaker series has a bishop engaged to speak on *Theology Then and Now*.
- Once Father Jim receives the author Jim Carroll's personal e-mail address, he will contact him to see if he will address the topic of *The Laity Before and After*. Karen Marnick, the parish's representative to APC, indicated that she may be able to help connect the parish to the author.
- Father Jim approached Jim Martin, the Jesuit author, about conducting a renewal during our anniversary celebration. He said "yes" but it would have to be via Skype. He would be able to respond to questions via Skype. Technology wise, it is doable. The renewal would have a spiritual theme but it has not been decided as of yet what that theme would be. Father Jim then asked for input from PPC members. The comments/questions were as follows:
 - Would he be able to attend at least one night? It may not work well if all three nights were via Skype.
Response: Because he lives in New York that is probably not something that is feasible.
 - Unless this use of technology is tried, you will never know for sure if it would work well.
 - People these days are used to using Skype; it is widely used for interviewing for a job.
 - If we use it, we should practice using the technology beforehand.
 - People at home could also be connected.
 - There was overall agreement that this should be tried.

Archdiocese Pastoral Council (APC)

Karen Marnik, our parish's representative on the Archdiocese Pastoral Council (APC), reported on the last APC meeting which was held on March 25. At that meeting the Synod on the Family was discussed. Membership was asked to think in terms of gospel values rather than the laws of the church. The response from APC members was a show of unanimous support on having the church take a more in depth look at the annulment process. Spiritual maturity at the time of marriage needs to be looked at along with many other factors. No one expects people to remain in an unhealthy relationship. On the matter of gay marriage, there was support for a more pastoral approach for welcoming gays and lesbians into the church community.

The other APC agenda item was a report by Father Dan Riley, the pastor of the Salem Collaborative, on the formation of that collaborative. Father conveyed that there was a sense of loss by parishioners during the formation process and therefore pain due to the changes. He felt that parish-based evangelization was very doable and that adult formation was critical to it all. It is now thought that forming a collaborative with four parishes is too many.

The following are responses to questions and comments made following Karen's remarks:

- The Cardinal really takes APC seriously and is sincere in wanting to hear members' responses.
- There is a stronger willingness to talk about divorce/annulment than about gay marriage. The emphasis surrounding gay marriage is more about pastoral care and compassion. Both issues need to be dealt with separately.
- The average age of APC members is probably 55 with a few members in their 40s and a few younger.
- The Cardinal felt the focus should be on Christ as the church deals with these issues. Pope Francis also feels that a pastoral approach is best right now and then the church needs to look at the laws of the church.
- Young parents need guidance on teaching their children the faith.
- The representative from St. Mary's thought that the survey on family completed by St. Mary's did not seem to be reflected in the final report.

Committee Updates

Evangelization Committee.

Paul Kenrick and Susan Foohey both spoke to the need for new leadership as the chairperson of this committee, Paul Kenrick, will be moving to Illinois in June. The work of this committee is essential to both the mission of the church and the parish. This past year Sue Foohey has done the outreach for the Religious Education Speaker Series but she needs people to help with the publicity and hospitality. They stress that the need is great and would like to see parents and younger people involved in this important work. New ideas are needed. As well as the speaker series, this committee is responsible for the Evangelization Corner and Town Day events for both Arlington and Winchester. Appreciation was expressed to St. Mary's for always advertising our events. A suggestion was made for another Ministry Fair to be held on *Coffee and Conversation* Sunday. Another suggestion was made to contact the parents attending the speaker series to become involved. Also, it was thought that the Religious Education teachers who are teaching while the speaker series is in progress might be good candidates to help with the Evangelization Committee. Also mentioned were parents of those involved in Youth Ministry. A personal invitation generally works best. If any PPC members have names of those who they think might be interested, they should give those names to Paul and someone on the committee will contact them.

Hospitality Committee. Bob Valeri also announced that he too will be moving and thus will have to resign his chairmanship of this committee as well as his PPC seat. Doran Donovan has generously accepted the chairmanship of this committee. The committee has had tremendous success with its once a month coffee and conversation activity. There are a lot of regulars who always attend as well as others. It usually lasts for an hour. Bob will be sure this activity goes on the calendar for next year. This committee's next event is an ice cream social to take place after the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, April 26. This event will celebrate Father Jim's birthday. A suggestion was made to have this event outside, weather permitting. It was noted that an ice cream birthday cake be purchased as well as ice cream cones. Lori Pescatore is the newest member of this committee.

If alcohol is to be served at events, the cost is \$210 per event. Paperwork must also be filled out for each event.

Collaborative Committee: This committee reports that both the Faure Requiem joint concert and St. Mary's Tea Party that St. Eulalia's women were invited to were very successful. St. Eulalia/St. Mary parishes will again this year share a booth at Winchester's Town Day celebration to be held on Saturday, June 6. It would be advantageous if some children and teenagers could help with the booth. Two other notes of interest include: St. Mary's new administrator will be in place on June 2 and Kathryn Davis has joined the Collaborative Committee.

Liturgy. This year First Communion will take place on May 2 and 3. The following week will be the crowning of the Blessed Mother.

Finance. The Finance Council has not met this month, so no OSR update is available.

The 2015 Catholic Appeal update has 189 donors having pledged \$70,590 toward our goal of \$90,931. Our donor goal is 336. We are at 78% of our monetary goal and 56% of our donor goal.

On-line giving now has approximately 110 participants; last year there were 44.

The death of Jerry Ross, a long time member of the parish's finance council, is a great loss.

PPC Election Committee: Bulletin notices for upcoming PPC nominations have been placed in the April 26 and May 3 Sunday bulletin. Nominees will be asked to prepare a autobiographical sketch relevant to the parish and will have their pictures taken. Both will be on display in the foyer of the church in the weeks prior to PPC elections—the weekend of May 30/31. There was a discussion as to whether it would be helpful if candidates were available in the foyer of the church to answer any parishioner questions. After the 11 a.m. Mass was suggested as there would be no incoming Mass. Also suggested was that candidates be available at the end of the Mass they attended. There was no resolution as to whether this would occur.

Other Business

Fund Raising. A PPC member was requested to bring up ways the parish could fundraise to help offset the exorbitant flower expense that the individual reported as being \$34,000. (The amount reported was thought to be incorrect by the pastoral associate.) The fund raising suggestions were two: 1) parishioners could donate flowers in memory of a loved one and 2) a calendar could be sold with each day of the week representing a certain dollar value. There would be a daily raffle to determine who would get the money allotted for that day. The following were comments made:

- PPC members seemed to like the idea that flowers could be given in someone's memory.
- Donation of flowers could be done at Christmas and Easter as well as at a memorial Mass for a loved one.
- The flower money would be given to the parish and the parish would purchase the flowers.
- Father Jim liked the idea of donating flowers in memory of a loved one but was not in favor of the idea of a calendar.

Note of correction:

Consultation by the PPC Vice Chair with the Parish Operations Manager following the April PPC Meeting revealed that the amount spent annually for altar flowers was significantly overstated during the meeting. The Parish spends under \$5,000 annually for altar flowers with the largest expenditures occurring around Christmas and Easter. The \$34,000 that was mentioned during the PPC meeting actually reflects expenses associated with lawn, shrub and grounds maintenance, as well as the new rectory fence.

Spring Clean Up

This topic was not discussed.

Action Item: The PPC vice chairperson reminded all that if they had any names of people who would be interested in serving on the Evangelization Committee in a leadership role, publicity, communications and/or hospitality, they should e-mail Paul Kenrick with the names.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell
PPC Secretary