

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 14, 2012

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Nestor, Louise Cocuzzo, Michael Angotti, Matt Calvey, Kathryn Davis, Jan Dolan, Mary Fiorentino, Paul Kenrick, Marge McGlone, Jean Nolan, Moira Ounjian, Andrew Regan, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Frank Lombardo

ABSENT: Peter Pongratz, Stephanie Rogers, Phil Waterman

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

The February 7, 2012 Meeting Minutes were approved as written.

#### COMMISSION REPORTS

FINANCE COUNCIL – Anna-Marie Ferraro reported that 819 OSR pledges have been received to date, which are 64 fewer than last year at this time. The amount pledged is \$686,500, down \$38,500 from the same time last year. OSR receipts for this calendar year to date are down \$25,100 from last year. Through careful expense control by staff, the budget is currently running below by \$21,426. FC has elected not to convert to the Improved Financial Relationship Model (IFRM) until July of 2013 when it will become mandatory in the Archdiocese. This will represent a change in how parishes support Central Ministries from fees and specific assessments now to a flat 10% of offertory and a Catholic Appeal goal equal to 8% of offertory.

Anna-Marie also reported that the FC attributed the decline in OSR to the Capital Campaign. However, approx. 1.1 million in capital campaign funds has already been realized. Cornerstone will provide a report comparing pledges to monies realized to date.

LITURGY – Louise Cocuzzo reported that all Lenten preparation is well underway and everything is going smoothly. “Soup and Stations” is planned for Friday, March 30. In lieu of Mardi Gras, which fell during school vacation, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the 9:00 Mass on Easter Sunday, April 8. The Mass of Anointing which is open to everyone will be held at 11:00 a.m. on April 21. The Bereavement Committee will assist in the preparation. Someone asked if St. Mary’s could specifically be invited to the Mass and following collation. On Wednesday, April 25 at 7:30 Fr. Kremmel will be the guest speaker for the Ministries Evening of Reflection. The topic of his talk is, “**HE IS RISEN.**”

#### SUBCOMMITTEES

- Evangelization – Paul Kenrick – Fr. Rivers presentation overall was received positively. Some people, however, were disappointed because his presentation didn’t measure up to his book. Fr. Rock and some members from St. Agnes in Reading will visit St. Eulalia’s on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss their vision of evangelization and its implementation.

The meeting is open to the committee and all PPC members. It was mentioned that this provides an opportunity for affirmation of the parish is and what St. Eulalias has to do a – no matter who remains in the parish administration. This could represent a great opportunity for the future of the parish.

- Enhancement – Kathryn Davis reported that the coffee after the 9:00 a.m. Mass combined with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children's liturgy was a success. The next coffee will be after the 11:15 on April 15. These coffees provide a wonderful opportunity to extend hospitality especially to new parishioners. Screening movies is also a future possibility. A Ministry Fair to invite people to participate in all parish activities will be held over the week-end of September 15/16.
- Religious Education – Andrew Regan/Jean Nolan suggested that an adult education program may possibly be combined with RCIA. This would be designed especially for people who are not necessarily candidates for Baptism of First Eucharist, but want to become re-acquainted with Catholicism. The committee also suggested that a simple request to parishioners be made to pray for RE students and educators. When Thomas Groome spoke at St. Eulalia's he said that total involvement by parents in religious education is necessary and stressed the importance of Eucharist and regular attendance at Mass. Donna DiFonzo, RE Director for Grades 7-10, e-mailed all parents for those grades re-emphasizing the importance of Eucharist and Mass attendance. Donna's email has been very well received and it is hoped that it will have a positive impact on those parents who are currently not attending Mass. The question was raised on how PPC could support the RE Program, especially as it pertains to absent parents. PPC members feel frustrated that priorities are skewed. It was suggested that an invitation card be included in the RE registration packet asking parents which Mass time would be their preference.
- Communications – Marge McGlone reported that the committee met and had a good discussion regarding some of the issues previously cited, i.e., silence in the Nave, and more respect for the Blessed Virgin.

#### NEW BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

Parish Meeting Feedback – PPC comments follow:

Some of the issues raised had nothing to do with collaboration, and presented no reasons to move forward, i.e., married priests, married Anglican priests being admitted to the Catholic Church, etc.

There was good attendance and participants really paid attention.

Changes in pastoral staff are troubling.

Age groups are of particular concern. How to get younger people involved.

No meaningful discussion of why this has to be done and why things have to change.

Important for people to do more work.

Feedback important and useful for decision making.

Saddened by the facts. Feelings of frustration. There should be a better way.

General fears about changes in Mass schedules and other concerns.

Fewer fears about finances.

Important for groups to work out together what parish image should be, i.e. administrative staff, etc. Decisions should be made bottom up and not top down.

Is there anything that St. Eulalia's should be doing now or is the parish OK at this time to avoid negative impact.

Shuttle clergy back and forth for Sunday Masses.

It is important to remember that collaboration is still in the proposal stages. In the event such a plan comes to be it will be necessary to put together a Pastoral Service Team (PST) to succeed Fr. Tom and Fr. Dick to insure that both parishes will be left in good form.

Inform parishioners through the bulletin about feedback from the parish meeting.

The hard part about reassignment is that the people we love will be "yanked out."

The situation is inevitable but at least it's open and can be discussed.

Reference was made to the Boston Globe article on St. Joseph the Worker parish which has increased its parish population by 250 in the past year. Some of this is attributed to the pastor who is an extraordinary leader and also due to the housing development in that area.

If we can't make evangelization work now, how is it going to improve with collaboration.

The leadership of active parishioners is greatly needed at this time. If the parishes do not move forward with concrete plans within ten years, parishes will have to be closed and the mission of the church will be impeded.

Publicity about all the wonderful things going on in the parish is more necessary than ever.

Perhaps St. Mary's and St. Eulalia's could participate together in a community work service project.

Fr. Tom is feeling hopeful about the new plan. At the very least there will be good lessons learned.

5 K ROAD RACE (with walking component) – A very able and knowledgeable parishioner has offered to organize a fun run in conjunction with the fall picnic. The race would start and end in the church parking lot and entry fees would be donated to charity.

SPRING PARISH EVENT – It was suggested that a social event be held to celebrate the end of the season – possibly a spaghetti supper?

PPC ELECTIONS – Parish Council members will talk about serving on the council during the Masses on the week-end of May 5/6. Nominations for election will be held on the week-end of May 12/13 and Elections will be held on June 2/3. PPC volunteers are needed to distribute ballots in the pews, and to count nomination and election ballots.

#### INFORMATIVE ITEMS AND REMINDER DATES

- March 31 – Blood Drive – Frank Lombardo reminded everyone how important it is to donate blood. Five million people received blood transfusions over the year. Frank asked for volunteers to greet and mingle and also distribute posters in various locations. This is wonderful PR for the parish because many people who donate are not St. Eulalia parishioners.
- The next joint meeting with St. Mary's PPC is April 29 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Eulalia's

- Religious Education Registration dates are March 18, 19, 20, 21, 25.
- First Eucharist celebration is April 28/29.

#### PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Some folks would like to have more evening Masses available in the Winchester area.

The guests of a parishioner celebrating an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday were very complimentary about the PA system.

Since the renovation people sitting in the back of the church are disturbed by noise in the foyer the doors should be closed.

There were complaints about the lack of trash bags in Manion. Be more alert about cleanliness of facilities.

Different prayer cards requested to highlight the changes in the language.

The music rehearsals before Mass defeats the purpose of a time for meditation.

Father Tom closed the meeting with the Hail Mary and a prayer of thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dolores Mullin, Secretary