

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

Present: Father Jim Savage (PPC Chair), Eva Arnott, Brian Burke, Louise Cocuzzo, Maria Constantino, Kathryn Davis, Anna Marie Ferraro (Parish Finance Council (PFC Representative) Carol Johnson, Frank Lombardo (St. Eulalia/St. Mary Collaborative Representative), Dolores Mullin, Joe Murphy, Moira Ounjian, Peter Pongratz (PPC Vice-Chair), Frances Shawcross (St. Mary/St. Eulalia Collaborative Representative), Raina Trilokekar, and Bob Valeri.

Absent: Paul Kenrick (PPC Assistant Vice-Chair)

Scripture Reading: The meeting opened with a scripture reading by Joe Murphy; a brief meditation followed.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were accepted.

PPC Meeting Dates: Members of the Executive Board—Peter Pongratz, Paul Kendrick, Kathryn Davis, and Raina Trilokekar—were reminded that the next meeting of the board would be on November 4th at 7 p.m. The next PPC meeting would take place on November 13th, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the McGann Conference Room.

Commission Reports

Finance Council

Thus far for 2013, OSR pledges of 1057 are 24 more than at the same time last year, with the pledged amount at \$886,400, which is \$55, 700 higher than last year. Donations are \$35, 900 higher than at this point last year.

Half of the cost of the new rectory fence was covered by insurance.

The parking lot cracks will be filled this fall, and seal coating and striping will be done in the spring.

The base of the Fatima shrine has been repointed. The statues will be cleaned and sealed. To date donations of \$3500 have been received toward the \$6400 total cost.

Capital Campaign pledges total \$1,969,333, with \$1,698,614 paid to date. There are only 5 delinquencies out of 652 pledges.

The 2014 OSR campaign will be launched on November 16, 17 with a video presentation. The following will feature parishioners' witness talks. The OSR mailing will be sent out to arrive around the time of the weekend launch.

Liturgy

- On September 18th the Bereavement Support Group began.
- Oct. 20: after the 9am Liturgy, a farewell reception for Barbara Penkala, RE coordinator for grades K-6 (10 years in this position but many more as a volunteer).
- Week of October 13th, "Why Catholic" Faith Sharing Groups resume.
- November: Litany of the Saints will serve as the Gathering Hymn throughout November.
- Feast of All Saints: Vigil Mass Oct. 31 at 7pm and November 1 at 9am.
- In the foyer of the church the Memorial Shrine will be available for parishioners to bring in photos of their departed loved ones. There will also be the Votive Candle Stand and the Book of Remembrance.

- On November 10th Fr. Jim Savage and Fr. Dick Messina from St. Mary's will do a pulpit exchange. Fr. Dick will preside at our 11am Sunday Liturgy and Fr. Jim will preside at St. Mary at their 11:30 am Mass.
- Confirmation Mass is at 2pm on November 17, presided by Most Reverend Robert Hennessey, auxiliary Bishop of Boston.
- November 23-24: Holy Land Sale (goods to help Christians in the Holy Land). Two volunteers will be needed to assist at every Mass.
- November 27th Thanksgiving Vigil Mass at 7:30 pm and Thanksgiving Day Mass on November 28th at 9am. We will have food offertories at both and bread from Pantadosi Bakery, which will be blessed by Fr. Jim.
- November 30-December 1: Advent begins.
- Father Daniel Horan, OFM will give our Lenten Mission on March 24, 25 and 26. He comes highly recommended and will speak on *The Last Words of Jesus: Living Lent in the Modern World*. His website is *Dating God* which focuses on Franciscan spirituality in the 21st century.

Sub Committee Reports

Evangelization Committee.

- Beginning this fall the committee will meet the first Thursday of each month.
- This committee is anxious to work with and support other groups within the parish, and currently is in the process of organization. The committee believes that personal invitation and personal neighborhood contact works best.
- An invite is being prepared for inclusion in OSR mailing and for Christmas 2013. (similar to what was handed out at Arlington Town Day.)

St. Eulalia/St. Mary PPC Collaboration Committee.

- This committee has met a number of times. Members are enthusiastic about getting the members of each parish to get to know one another—to develop a sense of community and establish congeniality.
- Committee members would like to see a Collaboration Corner in each of the parish's bulletins to inform parishioners of what events are taking place in the collaborative.
- Father Soper from the archdiocese would soon be meeting with the pastors and committee members of our collaborative.
- Thus far in the archdiocese 28 parishes have participated in Phase 1 of collaboration. The parishes participating in Phase 2 have recently been announced with 20 collaboratives to be formed from 50 parishes.

Parish Life Enhancement Committee

- "Today's Saints" is the theme for movies being shown: on November 24th at 2pm, *Romero* And on February 9th *Of Gods and Men* will be shown at 2pm.
- Blood Drive Report:
 - Frank Lombardo reported there were 48 donors and many volunteers. The Red Cross let us down by not sending enough Red Cross people causing wait times that were far too long. Consequently several people could not wait and left.
- Moira Ounjian suggested that the lectors be reminded of the proper way to use a microphone.

New Business

Redefining the Communications Committee's Purpose. Since this committee saw no activity in the 2012-2013 PPC session, the Vice Chair asked if this committee should disband or change its mission. After discussion, a motion was made and carried to redefine the committee. This committee will now focus on enhancing the parish's visibility both in the parish and in the community. Areas mentioned were: website, newspaper articles, Facebook (one for the Religious Education Program and one for the parish already exist), bulletin notices, and picture collages. Father Jim suggested putting a permanent notice on the front page of our bulletin in regards to the social media sites available. Peter Bujwid, our webmaster, was complimented on the good job he does in keeping the website updated and easily accessed. Kathryn Davis offered to spearhead this committee, with her expertise on Facebook, etc. Eva Arnott has volunteered to coordinate with the town newspapers.

Action Items:

1. "Welcome to the Neighborhood from St. Eulalia's"—tied to Evangelization Committee (perhaps a sub-committee), who might consider reviewing Real Estate within the Parish footprint and send a welcome note.
2. Place a welcome letter in OSR packet that new parishioners receive upon registering in the parish.
3. Welcome Committee—Frank Lombardo will spearhead this committee which will be tied to the Evangelization Committee.
4. Volunteer Process Improvement—spearheaded by Carol Johnson.

Other Topics

- A copy of the PPC's updated constitution was given out to members. Article 11 Section 2A speaks to the development of a Pastoral Plan. This plan should be developed by a cross-representation of parishioners. Before this plan can be fully developed, however, it was thought that the parish should be well aware of where it is now before it can move forward. It was further considered that a comprehensive list of parish activities, recently compiled in collaboration with St. Mary's Parish, should be viewed. A review of parish ministries was asked for by the vice chairperson. He asked that a list be compiled of all the ministries in the parish, inclusive of the list prepared in collaboration with St. Mary's Parish, so it can be reviewed at the November meeting.
- Considering the routine of the PPC session in recent years, where PPC members were taking on an inordinate amount of volunteer activities, it was suggested that the PPC's focus be shifted in ways that are more in keeping with the PPC Constitution. Recommendations included such things as focusing PPC time and attention on learning more about the activities going on throughout the parish (e.g., inviting various groups and commissions to provide insight of their activities during PPC meetings) and engaging others to get involved in parish-related activities.
- Having a Nomination Committee for PPC elections went very well last year. There should be another such committee appointed by January.
- Peter Pongratz will talk with the Business Manager about establishing a repository for photo.
- Added information was given about our newly assigned Jesuit seminarian, Michael Rozier. He will be ordained a deacon on Saturday, October 12, 2013 and be ordained in June. He has a background and Ph.D. in public health. He will be living in community in Brighton but will be here most weekends. It was suggested that he introduce the parish to Jesuit Spirituality. Michael will be preaching on Sunday, October 13th at the 11 am Mass.
- Parish Volunteer process needs improvement. Carol Johnson will draft a letter, for PPC review, that may be used to engage people in preparing a Parish Pastoral Plan (in accordance with the PPC Constitution) and coordinate the Parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration events.

Parishioners' Comments and Concerns

4pm Mass: A woman was distressed about the lack of respect shown by people in church, as it is quite noisy when she comes to Mass and also after Mass as folks are walking out of Church.

9am Mass: There should be more children oriented songs. The music is beautiful, but just should be more child friendly. Also inquiry was made about the striping and paving of the parking lot.

11am Mass: Ask the congregation to exit the Church after Mass in silence so that the Rosary Group can hear themselves pray.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Adele A. Hamblett

Acting PPC Recording Secretary