

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
October 14, 2015

Present: Father Jim Savage, Louise Cocuzzo, Maria Constantino, Kathy Creedon, Mary Deyst, Doran Donovan, Mark Earnest, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Carol Johnson, Tony Lockhart, Karen Marnik (APC Representative), Joe Murphy, Frances Shawcross (St. Mary/St. Eulalia Collaborative Representative), Joan Sweeney, Raina Trilokekar, Charlie Vendice.

Absent: None

Opening Prayer: Doran Donovan opened the meeting with the *Prayer of Pope Francis for Our Earth*. This prayer is contained in the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home*. The encyclical covers the science and theology resulting from over consumption of resources but just as important is the Pope's coverage of the way human beings treat each other. The opening prayer beautifully captured the Pope's plea to protect both the earth and all its creatures.

Charlie Vendice will be responsible for next month's opening prayer.

Minutes of Meeting:

The September 9, 2015 PPC minutes were accepted as corrected. The corrections were as follows: (1) On page 1 second bullet line 1, the name "Betsey" should be corrected to read "Betsy"; (2) On page 2 under Pastor Update paragraph 4 line 2, the word "one's" should be changed to "ones"; (3) On page 4 under Arlington Town Day paragraph 1, the name of "Doran Doran" should read "Doran Donovan"; On page 5 under Arlington Town Day, the last sentence of the paragraph should be omitted; (5) On page 5 under Wild West Fall Fest bullet 2, the correct spelling of the name of "Jilly Martin" should be substituted for "Jill Martin"; (6) On page 5 bullet 11, "Marie" should be corrected to read "Maria."

Old Business

Wild West Fall Fest Debriefing. With well over 300 people in attendance, this event was considered to be very successful. The following observations were made:

- It was thought that Manion Hall turned out to be the best venue for this particular event.
- Having the barbeque at the door was advantageous.
- Next year there should be more outreach to parishioners for providing international foods.
- The event was well advertised.
- Having the pony ride activity in the front of the church proved to be a good idea.
- It was thought to have just one form of entertainment next time due to time restraints.
- The making of animals from balloons was a huge success though time consuming.
- Parishioners gave positive feedback.
- The square dancing was a popular event with many participating.
- The Wild West theme was very well received.
- Perhaps next year donations should be solicited as the event went over budget by approximately \$300. The paid singer and square dance caller is what put the event over budget. The total cost of the event came to \$1,265.
- PPC leadership thanked all the volunteers especially Kathy.

- Next's year's event will be entitled *Family Fall Fest* and as it will be taking place during the parish's fiftieth anniversary year. It will be "kicked up a notch."

Town Day Debriefing. While there was a good group of volunteers, more volunteers would have been appreciated. The following were comments and observations that were made:

- The candy and lemonade were a popular attraction.
- Welcome packets and church bulletins were handed out.
- Thanks were extended to Paul McCarthy for helping Mark make the lemonade the night before Town Day.
- As there were a number of questions relating to the Religious Education Program, it would be helpful for next year to have that information available.
- Since there were many young people at Town Day, it was suggested that next year we get the Youth Ministry involved.
- Mark Earnest has generously volunteered to take responsibility for Town Day next year.

Comments/Concerns

The following were the comments/concerns voiced by parishioners to PPC members:

- Everything and everywhere is looking very clean.
- The green plants and mums around the church and at the doors of the church look beautiful.
- At least one parishioner would like to see more simplicity in the foyer of the church by not having so many plaques.
- More would like to learn about the Energy Committee. Response: The next meeting is October 28 and information will be given regarding that meeting.
- A request was made to place a large cross over the main altar: Response: That request is being taken care of.
- Funds are not being spent on what is needed. Money was recently spent on lights when the parish is in need of a new tabernacle and flooring for the church. Response: There was an announcement made at the end of the Masses regarding how the lights were paid for. Father Jim reports that a new tabernacle would cost somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000. If a parishioner were willing to make a donation to replace the current tabernacle, then Father Jim would be happy to replace it. Father Jim thinks the current tabernacle is simple and unique and was made specifically for that space. The parish is currently looking at different finishes for the tabernacle. As to the flooring, it should be replaced in the spring/summer of 2016 for the anniversary celebration. The cost of tile would be approximately \$20,000.
- Mass should be made more family friendly by providing chairs and speakers in the foyer and having the doors closed. Response: It is felt that doing the aforementioned would not make the Mass more family friendly; it would actually make it more exclusionary to those in the foyer. A suggestion was made to have people sit in the choir loft but another pointed out it was hard to see from there and that there was only one exit from the choir loft when there needed to be two due to fire laws.

PPC felt that responses to comments and concerns deserved to be published. It was recommended that they be placed on the website and/or printed in the bulletin as well as being posted in PPC minutes. Father Jim likes the idea of printing a notice in the bulletin directing parishioners to our website but PPC members question how many people look at the website.

A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers to take comments and concerns at the back of the church for the weekend of November 7 and 8.

Sub Committee Reports

Archdiocesan Parish Council (APC). There has been no APC meeting since the last report. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2016. The APC representative has recently visited some of her assigned parishes—St. Mary’s Winchester, St. Barbara’s Woburn, St. Charles Woburn and St. Agnes Reading.

This coming year has been proclaimed by Pope Francis as a Year of Mercy. The archdiocese is hoping to see parishes take on special projects during this special year dedicated to those in need of mercy. The Cardinal is especially interested in the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Some thought there was no immediate need here in this parish for housing, food and clothing but that was challenged. St. Eulalia’s has been providing food for various food pantries for many years with special emphasis on providing for those at St. Matthew’s parish in Dorchester.

Collaboration Committee. Staff and PPC members of the St. Eulalia/St. Mary Collaborative met with members of the representatives from the Archdiocesan Office of Pastoral Planning on September 27. The following responses were given to Father Jim’s question “What did you hear?”:

- The speakers were enthusiastic.
- The first task is to inform parishioners of what is going on in the collaborative.
- It is confusing as to what our next steps should be even after referencing the DIM (Disciples in Mission) website.
- One participant was distressed by the negative tone of the meeting; seemed people were “closed.”
- Most often these types of meetings are contentious.
- It is hard to believe that parishes participating are volunteering to do this.
- The next collaboration phase will only have 6 parishes; the previous phase had 12.
- One participant heard that Mass participants should be “tweeting” out their experience while Mass is taking place. We are being encouraged to be interactive during Mass. Response: This statement was an exaggeration—it was to emphasize that we should be using social media to evangelize.
- This is not exclusively voluntary.
- Our collaborative should come up with its’ own plan, set its own goals and be pro active before someone tells us what to do. Response: Father Jim thinks the archdiocese would like us to do that.
- The Collaboration Committee had a plan but it was felt that the people were not ready to do too much at this time.
- There is a general feeling that when Father Jim reaches retirement age, the collaborative will be formed.
- Evangelization efforts have been disappointing. There were only approximately 25 parishioners who came to hear Tim Muldoon speak. Where has evangelizing worked? Response: One parish in Maryland that we know of.)

Finance Council. OSR pledges to date are 927, 83 fewer than last year’s 1010 at this time. Dollars pledged this year total \$827,570, \$14,630 less than last year’s \$842,200 at this point in the year.

The OSR financial report that will be included in this November’s 2016 solicitation will show net income of \$92,099, which includes the donation of a parishioner to offset last year’s \$72,000 deficit. Therefore, the two year average indicated a net of only \$20,000. The OSR mailing will go out prior to Father Jim’s OSR talk the weekend of November 14/15 and the following talk the next weekend.

The church flooring project is moving slowly, as the tile company contacted has not been responsive. We have finally reached and slightly exceeded our Catholic Appeal goal, with \$91,395 pledged, representing 101% of our \$90,931 goal. Our number of donors' goal is at 90% (303) of our 336 goal. Our estimated rebate to the parish is \$13,500

Hospitality Committee. Mary Bannon hosted the last *Coffee and Conversation* event with approximately 30 people in attendance. She is scheduled to host this event for the next two months. The next committee meeting will take place on October 19.

Liturgy. Due to time constraints, nothing as yet has been done to reinstate the Liturgy Commission. Anna-Marie Ferraro volunteered to represent the lectors on this commission.

Children are being encouraged to participate at the 9 a.m. Children's Mass by bringing up food offerings at the offertory. Every second Sunday of the month there will be a Youth Mass at 7 p.m. to be presided over by a number of different priests from the archdiocese. Approximately 30 to 40 people have been attending this special Mass. An effort will be made to make parishioners aware of this additional Mass time. Confirmation, this year, will be held on Saturday, November 7 at 1 p.m. Bishop Uglietto will be presiding. And lastly, St. Eulalia's will be sending representatives to **World Youth Day** in Poland.

New Business

Greeter Ministry. Initially, the Evangelization Committee was responsible for this ministry and its training. Should they continue or should the Hospitality Committee take over this function? Here are the thoughts expressed on the greeter ministry:

- There continues to be a schedule of greeters provided by Mary Lou Burke.
- People arriving at Mass may feel overwhelmed by too many greeters.
- A greeter could be responsible for seating people.
- Greeters sometimes feel they are bothering people.
- People talk more readily outside of church.
- Greeters should try and remember people's names and use them.
- As people like to engage in conversation when they see a person wearing a badge/name tag, why not provide greeter badges. Response: Some greeters already have name tags.
- Father Jim thinks that you cannot always know what good you do by greeting folks.

Welcoming Parishioners and Guests at Christmas. Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled until the November meeting.

Pastor's Update

Replacing the flooring in the church is a big project. Ten weeks in the summer of 2016 has been set aside to have flooring installed. Masses will take place in Manion Hall during this time. Measurements have been taken and the parish is waiting for estimates. Options for flooring are still being looked at. Stone of some kind is what is currently being explored. The parish is hoping to see some tile samples soon. There are still some funds from the Capital Campaign that can be used for the flooring. As most know, there are still some issues not resolved from the Capital Campaign. Father will be meeting with the general contractor soon. Broken kneelers will be taken care of by the custodian.

Plans for the Fiftieth Anniversary are on target with the theme of the year to be *Share the Spirit*. (The theme of the twenty-fifth anniversary was *Catch the Spirit*.) The calendar of events will be included in the OSR mailing. A banner has been ordered and should be available during the middle of November. All parishioners will be encouraged to sign it. It will be brought around to all religious education classrooms for students to sign and will be at the back of the church for parishioners to sign. The anniversary trip is now fully subscribed.

The Social Justice Committee will be supporting St. Matthews' Food Pantry in a new way by providing farm fresh fruits and vegetables to them once a month. There will be a food cart set up in the foyer of the church to receive these items

The first three Mondays in November will be devoted to presentations on *Art in the Service of God*.

Closing Prayer. Father Jim closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell
PPC Secretary