

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
February 13, 2019

Present: Father Jim Savage, Martha Bujwid, Jessica Callaghan, Louise Cocuzzo, Brian Collins, Mary Deyst, Doran Donovan, Claire McKenna, Joan Sweeney

Absent: Brian Burke, Mary DeCoursey, Michael Pescatore, Mike Pescatore (Sr.)

Opening Prayer. Brian Collins led us in the opening prayer with a *Prayer of Compassion* by Mother Theresa.

Minutes of Meeting. The January 9, 2019 minutes were accepted as submitted.

Committee Reports

Pastor Update.

Father Jim reminded PPC that there are still a number of improvements that need to be made in the spring. Those improvements were detailed in the January 9, 2019 minutes.

Father Osterman, the current administrator of St. Mary's Winchester, called regarding youth ministry. To date, Father Osterman has not responded to Father Jim's returned call so Father Jim will follow up. In the meantime, Father Jim asked PPC membership how they envision the role of youth minister. Some of the responses were as follows:

- A youth minister should be someone close in age to the youth of the parish and have the ability to connect with them.
- The end goal of having a youth ministry program is to have those involved attend Mass.
- The program is also about building relationships with people of the same faith.
- With a youth minister we could bring back a youth group.
- A youth minister would give support for a service component.

All PPC membership were in agreement that we should have a youth minister. Cost would not be a factor and if we employed a youth minister in collaboration with St. Mary's, then we would share the cost. We do currently have a youth group that meets every other week. Father Jim raised the question of whether we needed a full-time youth minister as our youth today are so busy with a sundry of activities. It was suggested that we survey what other parishes do. It is possible that we could combine the role of youth minister with the role of religious education coordinator into one position. The issue in doing this would be that there would not be an abundance of people skilled in both disciplines. A question was raised as to whether CYO still exists. It does in a very limited sports-oriented form was the response. It would be difficult to compete with the many town leagues and traveling teams in the area.

The following "happenings" will be taking place in the parish:

- The Black Archdiocesan Gospel Choir will be singing at the 4 p.m. Mass sometime during Black History Month.

- On St. Patrick's Day there will be a harpist playing at the 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Masses.
- There will be a parish Lenten Mission that will take place on Monday through Wednesday, March 11 thru 13.
- Also taking place is a Lenten adult education offering.
- A Communal Penance Service with St. Mary's will take place on March 27.
- The presentation on immigration has been rescheduled to March 26.

Finance.

OSR. OSR donations for calendar year 2018 totaled \$1,060,771 from 877 donors. Included in the total is \$110,045 from online giving. In 2017, OSR donations were \$970,996 from 734 donors.

Net income for the first 6 months of the current fiscal year which began July 1, 2018 is \$117,273.

Capital expenses in recent months total \$126,631. Additional expenses this spring for painting of the rectory, parking lot sealcoating, and installation of a dry well at the parish center will cost an additional \$39,000.

Catholic Appeal. Final 2018 Appeal donations totaled \$115,793 (102% of our goal) from 328 donors.

The 2019 Appeal will be announced the weekend of February 23/24 and Commitment Weekend is March 2/3 with an in-pew solicitation taking place at that time. Our 2019 goal is \$119,915, our assessment is \$70,113 and our in-pew solicitation goal is 93.

A question was raised after the finance report as to what percentage of parishioners were currently donating to OSR. Perhaps 35 percent of parishioners if you base it on the number of mailings that are sent. If you were to base it on the number of parishioners who attend Mass it would be approximately 80 to 90 percent. What the parish currently has for a census is a lot of names on a list and the parish directory has not been updated recently. If an envelope is returned from a mailing, the name is then crossed off the list. It was suggested that perhaps volunteers could conduct a phone census. Another suggestion was for the parish to communicate by using technology instead of the bulletin and paper communications. It was asked that the topic of communication be put on the PPC agenda.

Liturgy.

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season on March 6, 2019. The Little Black Books" containing daily meditations will once again be in the pews and there will be sung morning prayer every Wednesday during Lent at 8:30 a.m.

The celebration of St. Eulalia's feast day was most enjoyable.

Hospitality Committee.

The two new co-chairpersons of the Hospitality Committee, Jessica Callaghan and Brian Collins, recently met with the outgoing chairperson Doran Donovan. They see their role as one where they help to implement an event - that is, to be a resource and to provide resources to the event planners.

Activities from the past were reviewed and the following will be taking place in the near future: ongoing *Coffee and Conversation* after the 11 a.m. Mass, a Pancake Breakfast to be held on Palm Sunday and a Spaghetti Supper to be held in March.

The new Hospitality Committee is concerned that there be activities after all the Masses and not just a few of them. Father thinks you would get the most people to participate in an activity if it were held after the 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday. Others thought after the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday. Some activities suggested were: an ice cream social in the spring after the 5 p.m. Mass, wine and cheese after the 4 p.m. Mass (a license and insurance rider would be needed for alcohol), and pizza after the 4 p.m. Mass. It would be helpful if these activities after the 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Masses were conducted during daylight savings time while it is still light outside. How to communicate these activities will need to be discussed at another time. It is thought it would be better to communicate with parishioners electronically or to use a “robo” call. Mary Deyst will investigate how a “robo” call can be made.

PPC Elections

After last year’s election for Parish Council, there was a call by Father Jim and PPC for examination of the process as many found the election process to be confusing and thus not particularly fair to anyone wishing to place in their name in nomination.

There are two proposals for change to the election process. Both proposals require a better way for nominations to PPC to be explained and gathered. One is to still have two distinct elections, a primary and a final election. Here are the points to be considered:

- A nomination form should be inserted in the bulletin where parishioners can nominate themselves or others. Election Committee members would need to contact those nominated by someone else to ensure that person wanted to participate.
- Students should be allowed to nominate their peers for the student category.
- The names of those nominated would appear in the bulletin and on the website well in advance of the primary election.
- A primary election with the names of all nominees on the ballot would be held whereby the top four candidates in each category (parent/general/youth) would run for election.

The second proposal is to have just one election whereby the names of all nominees are put on one ballot and the top two vote getters in each category (parent/general/youth) are appointed.

Points surrounding this process are:

- This proposal allows more time for the nomination process to take place and thus not be so confusing.
- It would be impossible to have the pictures and biographies of all nominees on the election ballot as there may be too many participants.
- It was suggested that unless you have five nominations the nominee’s name not go on the ballot.

To summarize in part:

- Proposal 1 mandates there be two elections, one a primary election and a final election. This proposal would take more time than Proposal 2. It would therefore be more labor intensive for the Election Committee which according to constitution restraints is small in number.

- Proposal 2 would have only the run-off election of all nominees. Not having nominee pictures on the ballot would be a disadvantage. Also, not having nominee pictures and biographies in the foyer of the church before election would be a disadvantage. Proponents think that a primary is an unnecessary step.
- The nomination process is critical for either proposal.

Further comments were as follows:

- There could be pages of names if there were just a final election.
- It would be a good idea if all nominees could see their names on a ballot.
- There should be no quota to the number of nominees.
- Technology can be used to help in the nomination process.
- Put a nomination sheet in the bulletin for the month of March.
- We should look at our constitution and change if necessary.
- We could have pictures and biographies of the candidates even if it were a two-step process.
- A concern was expressed for the amount of work a two-step process would entail for the Election Committee.
- Should there be a separate ballot for the youth category so it can be easily disseminated to the youth of the parish or should there be just one ballot? If two ballots, then the youth ballot could be a different color.
- According to our constitution, one must be 18 years of age to vote.
- Everyone agrees to solicit nominations beginning in March. Information and notices should be placed in the bulletin and on the website.
- The primary issue appears to be whether to have a primary election.

Doran Donovan, last year's Election Committee chairperson, will send a summary of the different election scenarios to PPC members.

Notice. As the final evening of our parish mission will be on Wednesday, March 13, our next scheduled meeting date for PPC will be Wednesday, March 20.

Comments and Concerns

The following were the comments/concerns received:

- There were no comments nor concerns voiced for this month.

Closing Prayer. The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell, PPC Secretary