

St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family

Parish Council Minutes - Tuesday, October 17, 2023

1. **Meeting Opening** - A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church (all churches and chapels are hereinafter abbreviated with first initials). The Agenda, the Minutes of the September 13, 2023 Council meeting, and the Diocesan Statutes for Parish Pastoral Councils were distributed prior to the meeting. Msgr. Stephen Avila opened the meeting with a prayer for the conflict in the Holy Land. Jane Hopewood read the Statement of Purpose.

2. **Attendance** - Msgr. Stephen Avila (hereinafter Fr. Steve), Fr. Matthew Laird; Council members: Co-Chairs Jim Quinn and Frank Geishecker, Mary Lou Palumbo, Jane Hopewood, Paula Tredeau, Bill LaRuffa, Susan Cronin, Jim Roux. Deacons (*ex officio*): Peter Guresh. Guest: Thomas Palanza, Pastoral Coordinator. Excused: Linda Hamilton, Mat Baldasaro, Matheus Araujo, Louise Gagnon, Deacon Bill Hays. Absent: Deacons (*ex officio*): Paul Harney, Pat Mahoney, Gus Adams. Resigned: Carolyn Malchodi.

3. **Secretary/Minutes** - The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. Paula Tredeau served as temporary secretary. Minutes from the September 13, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. **Report by Thomas Palanza, Pastoral Coordinator:** Thomas Palanza reported on the Ministry Fair held in September. There were 70 new people who expressed interest in becoming involved with the Parish in 130 different activities. This was a very encouraging report. Additionally, Tom reported that some of the current Ministry members and leaders had a chance to meet other Ministry members and learn about different activities in the Parish. This was an unanticipated result of the Fair, but a valuable and rewarding encounter for all. There was interest expressed in the Betheny Ministry which is a ministry for the homebound. Tom reported that there will be follow up to those who expressed an interest. The contact information for new people was given to the head of the Ministry, and Tom will follow up to ensure that the new people are contacted. There was a recommendation to make the Ministry Fair an annual event in the Parish so that people can anticipate it. It would be incorporated into the Parish calendar as an annual event. The goal is to emphasize the stewardship aspect of participating in a Ministry in that we are all called to share the gifts that we are given to further our Mission.

4. Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning Committee: Paula Tredeau reported that the initial edits of the Plan are complete, and the next step is a more comprehensive editing scheduled for the next SPC meeting on Tuesday, October 24th. Bill LaRuffa consolidated each of the seven sections into one Plan document, so that is a significant step in bringing the Plan into final form. Paula reported that the Plan drafters consulted the Governance section from the Diocesan website, and they will also now incorporate relevant information from the Diocesan Statutes for Parish Pastoral Councils. The Committee was pleased to see that the topics it identified independently for our Plan are very close to those topics that the Diocese addresses on its Governance website. The projected timeline for the Plan is for all edits to be completed by mid November. A final DRAFT document will then be given to Fr. Steve and Fr. Matt for their review.

After their review, the Plan will be distributed to the Parish Council. Given this timeline and the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas season, we contemplate that the Plan will go to the Parish Council around early January, 2024.

Statutes for Parish Pastoral Councils: Jim Quinn led a discussion of this document that had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. Jim reviewed the listed “topics of concern” for a Pastoral Council, which include evangelization, spirituality of the parish, worship, faith formation, youth ministry, stewardship, and leadership. Jim pointed out that our Council has operated with Co-Chairs (Jim Quinn and Frank Geishecker), but Jim suggested that one person serve as Chair per the statutes. Jim asked for Frank to continue in the role of Chair, and Jim will step back as Co-Chair. There should be a Secretary named, so that election will be held rather than Paula Tredeau continuing to serve as temporary secretary. The statutes also call for a joint meeting of the Finance Council and the Parish Council, so that will be scheduled, probably in January, 2024. The statutes state that when there is a collaborative, members from each Parish should be named to a Pastoral Council. There was consensus that after our Collaborative and now as a Parish, we have incorporated members from the prior three parishes and that we have fulfilled this goal with the Parish Council now serving. There was a motion by Jane Hopewood that the Council formally adopt the Statutes for Parish Pastoral Councils, as modified, which was seconded by Jim Roux, and approved unanimously.

5. Parish Ministries:

Ministry Fair - The report was given by Thomas Palanza, above.

Saint Vincent de Paul - Susan Cronin reported that there are new volunteers from the Ministry Fair, and other new volunteers as well. They are continuing A Place at the Table, the hot meal service for lunch in conjunction with other churches in Falmouth. Jim Quinn reported that they cover Thursdays at St. Barnabas. There is one cook for the main meal and the 3-4 helpers prepare side dishes. They are serving between 30-40 people at a time, and they are also now having children, which is a new development. There was a question as to whether migrants come to this program, and Jim said they are not. There was continued discussion about migrant needs, and Jim will inquire at Joint Base Cape Cod if there is a request for pastoral or other assistance. Jim also reported that, in conjunction with the Falmouth Service Center, there is food assistance provided for military families twice a month.

Sacristan Ministry - There was a discussion that there is a need for this ministry to have better communication among the members of the Ministry for each of the Churches. The goal is to identify a leader for each Church and have communication among those who serve at each Church, and also among the three Churches so that all members can be available for coverage. The intention is that the Pastor would not have to monitor this Ministry, or other similar ministries in the Parish, and that the Ministry would manage its own schedule and coverage.

Men's Club - Tickets are available for the Harvest Dinner Dance on Saturday, November 4th from 5 p.m.- 9 p.m. at SES. There was further discussion about the ticketing process throughout the Parish for this event and other events. Bill LaRuffa stated that many groups rely on the Parish secretaries to handle these type of services, but the secretaries often don't have sufficient information or instruction on what needs to be done.

Old Business - None.

New Business - Fr. Steve reported on a new model for Youth Ministry. He said this area is constantly evolving and adapting to this age group. There is a youth program at Corpus Christi Parish in Sandwich which is similar to the adult program That Man is You. It is called Fidelis for the girls' program and Fraternus for the boys program. It is in the second year there, and seems to be well received. This type of program is being investigated for the Parish.

Upcoming Events and Planning:

The All Saints Day Mass is being planned. It will be on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 5 p.m. at SES. The children will be asked to dress as a Saint for the Mass.

The Thanksgiving Mass will be Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7 p.m. at SES. Parishioners will be asked to bring nonperishable food items. Also, Fr. Matt will include Brazilian language readings and music in the Mass. There will be an ice cream social after the Mass.

The Parish's participation in the Falmouth Christmas Parade (Sunday, December 3, 2023) is being planned. The Parish will have a float in the parade with the Parish children in the Nativity scene, and a Christmas music program is planned after the 9 a.m. Mass at SP. We will invite the other Christian churches in Falmouth to participate with our Parish in the Christmas music program.

Mary Lou Palumbo reported that she had been contacted by the Falmouth Enterprise for advertising in the Christmas edition. There was discussion that we should contact the paper for press coverage of the All Saints Mass, the Thanksgiving Mass, and that the Parish will invite other Christian churches in Falmouth to join us for the Christmas music program on the day of the Christmas Parade.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Steve reported that the Diocese has created a Mental Health Ministry. There are teams trained in how to deal with people who need mental health consulting. The Parish will be forming such a team and will do work similar to that assistance that is offered by SVdP. Christ the King Parish in Mashpee has a team that is trained. Fr. Steve continued with a report about Faith Formation this year. Fr. Steve reported that our ECHO apprentice, Jacqueline Hale is doing very well, particularly with the youth ministry in Faith Formation. He said she is very enthusiastic. Similarly, Maura Polles is doing very well with Faith Formation and Fr. Matt is working with Maura. After the pandemic years, the program is back on a more traditional track, and there are 185 children. This is slight increase over last year. Fr. Steve is doing the Confirmation class, and Fr. Matt is doing 8th grade as a pre-Confirmation year. The First Communion class is 32, up from 23 last year. This is not a typical increase, and the first grade has the more typical 16 students. All of the classes have a helper in the room to assist the Catechist, so that is good for the program.

Next Meeting and Adjournment -The next meeting is Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 p.m. at SES. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.