

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
January 13, 2016

Present: Father Jim Savage, Louise Cocuzzo, Kathy Creedon, Mary Deyst, John DiAngelis, Doran Donovan, Mark Earnest, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Carol Johnson, Tony Lockhart, Karen Marnik (APC Representative)

Absent: Maria Constantino, Joe Murphy, Joan Sweeney, Raina Trilokekar, Charlie Vendice

Opening Prayer: Carol Johnson opened the meeting with a reflection entitled *Divining the Body* composed by Jan Philips..

Minutes of Meeting:

The January 13, 2016 PPC minutes were accepted as corrected. The corrections to be made are as follows: (1) On page 4 in the *Collaboration Committee* report, the last word on line 4—“in,” should be corrected to read “is.” (2) On page 4 in the *Liturgy* report, the spelling of “Genus” should be changed to “Genius.”

Pastor Update

Father Jim reported that the first adult received into the faith in our 50th Anniversary year entered on January 1. The first two babies to enter the faith during the anniversary year were baptized on Saturday, January 9.

The 50th Anniversary banner will again be placed in the foyer this coming weekend in order to give those who did not sign it another opportunity to do so. The banner will then be hung in the church to be in place for the official Mass to open the anniversary year which will be on Sunday, January 24. The presider will be Bishop Uglietto. A reception will follow in Manion Hall. Father Jim requests staff and PPC members to mingle at the reception. PPC members will wear their name tags but will not sit together in church as everyone may not be available to attend. Those serving at the opening of the anniversary Mass have all been notified by Mary Lou Burke that they will be part of the ceremony. This event is the only winter anniversary activity that has been planned as weather may be a factor. The Risen Christ has been removed from the church and will be mounted to a cross. It will be in place for the anniversary’s opening Mass on Sunday, January 24. The next anniversary event will be in April with Father James Martin leading a night of reflection. The parish trip to France and Spain follows that. All activities are listed in the 50th Anniversary brochure that was sent to all in the OSR packet.

Father Jim introduced Linda Olsen who has volunteered to take charge of the publicity/advertising for the anniversary celebration. Her report included the following information:

- She was asked in August 2015 if she would coordinate the publicity for the event.
- A calendar of anniversary events was developed over the course of the summer and given out at Arlington’s Town Day.
- The logo that was decided upon was *Share the Spirit* which represents evangelization.
- There have been and will continue to be informational items in the church bulletin. It was suggested that she include announcements in the church bulletins of churches in the surrounding communities.

- The **Winchester Star** has been contacted. It is hoped that they will do an article that will include the history and activities of the parish along with some photos. A suggestion was made that this information be shared with the **Arlington Advocate** so that they may also run an article.
- It was further suggested that a calendar be put on our website and posts be made to our parish's blog. Our business manager will put a page on our website. Linda Olsen will update her and the updates will then be posted by the business manager.
- The publicity chairperson is in need of someone to update our *Facebook* page.
- Winchester cable will be happy to interview Father Jim and if we supply an interview with Father Jim, Arlington cable will be happy to run it.
- If a town e-mail list can be generated, then announcements can be sent via e-mail.
- The Sunday Globe's North West section can be used to post events. It was suggested that Winchester's online residence page would be a huge resource as well as Arlington's "A" List.
- The Pilot does not cover anniversaries but Linda will write a press release for events and contact the news editor to see if they can be printed.
- Linda requested that if anyone knew of a person who would be willing to help with electronic postings, please let her know. As a password is required to attain access, she is limiting access to one volunteer.
- What is on our website can be forwarded to the Winchester Residents' List and to Arlington's "A" List.

There will a meeting of the parish 50th Anniversary History Committee the Wednesday following the opening anniversary Mass to review the booklet being produced. The booklet will include pictures of the first St. Eulalia Church in Boston being burned to the ground and pictures of St. Eulalia Winchester. The committee is looking for a picture of the original interior of St. Eulalia's before it was renovated. It is hoped that someone who was married in the church during its first ten years would have a wedding picture that would show the interior.

Christmas Debriefing

Matthew Kelly's Book. All 600 copies of Matthew Kelly's book distributed at Christmas were taken. There will be a follow up in February for all those who have read the book and wish to discuss it.

Sign-Up Genius Greeter Pilot. The scheduling with *Genius* for greeter assignments for Christmas Masses was thought to have worked well with only one person expressing difficulty in using it. It will continue to be used for special occasion events. Only an administrator of the software can add names but any volunteer can delete their name from the assignment list. Mary Lou Burke has everyone's name for the scheduling of greeters for the anniversary Mass on January 24. This software can be used to schedule volunteers for any special event not just for greeter assignments.

The question was raised as to whether there needs to be a 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. Mass on Christmas as attendance at those two Masses was low. As more people than usual attended the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Christmas than on a Sunday, it was thought that perhaps both the 7:30 and 9 a.m. Masses could be combined for next year.

New Business

Greeter Leadership. At present there is no one person taking charge of the greeters and ushers. The roles of greeter and usher while overlapping are distinct. Greeters are generally stationed in the foyer while the

ushers are at the back of the church. It would be difficult for a greeter and usher to perform the duties of both—each one's role needs to be defined.

The question was asked if any PPC member would like to assume the responsibility of greeter/usher leadership. Anyone interested should let the vice chairperson know. The following questions came up during this discussion: (1) How does the priest know if someone in the pew needs to have Communion brought to them? Response: Usually they tell the pastoral associate. (2) How do people know when to sign up to volunteer for special events? Response: The chairperson of the Hospitality Committee has the e-mail addresses of approximately 40 people and e-mails a request for volunteers. Father Jim thinks that the list needs to be broadened as one is limited by the number of e-mail addresses on file. The e-mail database could have each volunteer identified by their ministry. Our parish software, Parishsoft, is being examined for this use.

Sub Committee Reports

Archdiocesan Parish Council (APC). The next scheduled APC meeting is in February. As social justice is a major undertaking of the APC, our representative has become involved and joined the Peace and Justice Ministry at St. Mary's, one of her APC assigned parishes. The committee and our APC representative have been working on refugee resettlement in the Winchester area. Father Messina is very involved and at every meeting. Our APC representative has met with one of Winchester's selectmen. It is thought that the work of refugee settlement is best carried out through the churches, the interfaith community. Our APC representative intends to follow through and contact more local interfaith churches to see what can be done. Affordable housing is a very real issue needing a solution, also financial support for the families. Support can be obtained through multi-cultural resources, the government, Catholic Charities and through the solicitation of private funds. While this is to be primarily a Winchester initiative, it was noted that Arlington would have a lot to contribute to Winchester in this area. Another recommendation made was for the committee to contact Catholic Charities. This venture would be considered successful if even two refugee families could be welcomed during the first year. Some time ago one of our PPC members was involved in a similar endeavor and they received some assistance from the archdiocese and from private sources. Our APC representative asked for our support and prayers for this endeavor.

Collaboration Committee. Our parish's collaborative representative attended a conference in November where four priests who lead the North Shore parishes that are in various stages of collaboration held an interesting and informative panel discussion. Each pastor shared insights on the development, challenges and successes of his collaborative which included:

- They agreed that the biggest challenges for parishioners were getting used to togetherness, sharing and having a friendly relationship not rivalry.
- Parishioners, priest and staff need patience.
- Priests find it difficult to be present to all people, particularly the sick. They need to form community and rely more on staff.
- The staff needs patience with new procedures. They worry about losing their jobs.

During the question and answer session, the priests emphasized that evangelization is the key to getting things right. The PPC members are major workers in the collaborative process.

St. Eulalia's parishioners are invited to attend the St. Mary's Lenten Retreat to be given by Father Lou Papes from March 13 to 15.

Evangelization Committee. On Sunday, February 7, from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Sue Muldoon, a therapist and director of Religious Education, will speak on *Preparing for Lent and Life: Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Family*. All adults are encouraged to attend.

Some Evangelization Committee members plan to attend the Disciples in Mission Workshop in Lexington on January 30. It is an important workshop that helps with laying the foundation for the forming of the collaborative. All PPC members are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$25.

Finance Council. The final 2015 OSR figures are:

Total pledges	\$840,900
Pledges paid	\$756,500
Pledge balance	\$ 84,400

It is difficult to determine the exact number of donors as there is a problem identifying online credit card donors.

Income for the period of July 1, 2015 to December 15, 2015 is \$665,558, which is 2% under the prior year of \$680,314. Expenses totaled \$541,991, which is 2.4% under the prior year's total of \$555,383. Net income was reported at \$123,568. The income is 17% over budget and expenses are 3.7% over budget. No analysis of 2016 OSR results are available as yet.

Pledges for the 2015 Catholic Appeal total \$97,122 which is 107% of our goal of \$90,931. Pledges paid to date are \$96,097, leaving an unpaid balance of \$1,025. There were 323 donors, 96% of our goal of 336. Our estimated parish rebate is \$18,316.

The estimated cost of the church flooring project is \$200,000.

Hospitality Committee. The attendance at the last *Coffee and Conversation* was lower than usual. Mary Bannon and her committee are willing to continue with this activity. On March 12 there will be a Spaghetti Supper organized by Lori Pescatore. There will be a goodwill donation basket to help defray the cost of the event. The Hospitality Committee will be happy to help with the events for the 50th anniversary celebration.

Liturgy and Social Justice. The 50th Anniversary Social Justice Committee has undertaken the following:

- the solicitation of fresh fruits and vegetables for St. Matthew's Food Pantry every month
- the raising of money for a new altar for Father Nelson's West African church
- the printing of profiles of those parishioners who have been involved in the social justice movement through the life of St. Eulalia parish.

On February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, there will be a special Mass which will include a procession in the church. During Lent we will have morning prayer every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.

Other Business

The PPC meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, February 3, due to Ash Wednesday. If anyone should have a conflict, please let the vice chairperson know as soon as possible.

The *Sign-Up Genius* software will be used to schedule PPC members for Mass coverage prior to a PPC meeting. The goal is to have every Mass covered.

Comments and Concerns

- Many parishioners gave thanks for Matthew Kelly's book that was available at Christmas.
- A request was made to reinstate the ten minutes of silence before the start of Mass during Lent. (A question was raised by membership regarding the omission of a procession during Lent. Father Jim was agreeable to the period of silence but would like to continue with having a procession.)
- The children involved with the *Welcome the Child* production were complimented. A parishioner would like a CD of the music. Response: The compliment should be shared with our youth minister. Also, Peter Pongratz records a video of the *Welcome the Child* production each year but has never made it available to parishioners. Perhaps this could be considered.
- A parishioner inquired about the Religious Education schedule for the upper grades and what flexibility might be available to accommodate absences and scheduling conflicts. Response: This inquiry will be shared with the Director of Religious Education.

Closing Prayer

Father Jim closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell
PPC Secretary