



St. Augustine Parish Community
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

January 22, 2014

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O'Leary, Deacon Lou Piazza, Erik Eldracher, Kathy George, Pat Jennings, Julie Kelley, Eugenie Moffitt, Thomas Reynolds, Vice Chair, Marianne Rhoads, Thomas Rickenbacker, Paul Romano, Dana Rowland, and Klara Vajda.

Absent:

Barbara Biondo, Sean Burke, Greg Clements, Sheila Doherty, Debra Falvey, Kim Grady, Michelle Karlberg, Allyson Smith.

Opening Prayer:

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Reflective Reading and Sharing:

Rule Principle Nine: Reconciliation.

Review of Minutes from November 14th Meeting:

The minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council meeting held November 14, 2013 were accepted as written and will be posted on the Parish website.

Parish Pastoral Council Communications Outreach: Cynthia Arsenault – Music Director

Cynthia's passion is Liturgical or sacred music and she leads more than 60 musicians, cantors, and choir members in that pursuit. Cynthia made a point of mentioning how dedicated they all are, with the cantors rehearsing at least 1-2 hours/week and the choir 2-3 hours/week, and many then serving at more than one Mass on the weekend. To underscore the level of commitment, Eugenie recalled when she was on the search committee interviewing Music Directors, a well-qualified Episcopalian candidate was shocked to learn that she would be responsible for 7 Masses each weekend plus weddings and funerals, not the 1 service she was used to.

This year Cynthia has taken on the added role of Music Teacher at St. Augustine School, where among other things she directs the 35 student choir. Several members of the Council who have children in the school related how much their children enjoy their music activities and classes.

Fr. Peter and the whole Council were very complimentary of the work Cynthia is doing. After answering all question, Cynthia left the meeting.

Disciples in Mission:

Fr. Peter opened the discussion to comments and questions regarding Disciples in Mission. The 3rd phase of the program is just being formulated at this time. In response to the experiences to date, the roll out process has been slowed somewhat to allow enough time for training and planning. As originally conceived, this program will continue to unfold over the next 5 years. All are encourage to visit the website www.disciplesinmission.com frequently for updates.

Fr. Peter mentioned that the Augustinians are in the process of electing their Provincial Superior for a 4-year term. There are 2 new candidates plus the incumbent, Fr. Anthony M. Genovese, OSA, running with the results to be announced in March. This will be followed in June by the week long Augustinian Chapter meeting at which the ongoing 4-year Program for the Province will be formulated. Fr. Peter mentioned this now since the participation of the Augustinians in the Archdiocesan Collaboratives is dependent on an agreement between the Cardinal and the Provincial Superior. Fr. Peter said he was neither anticipating nor precluding any changes in the current agreement for their work in Andover.

Parish Twinning Discussion:

Fr. Peter invited John McCormick to present information he had researched on the idea of St. Augustine Parish “twinning” with a Parish in Haiti. The Parish Twinning Program of the Americas (<http://www.parishprogram.org>), an organization in Nashville TN, has as its primary focus helping parishes in the US and Latin America/Caribbean develop a special relationship. There are already more than 300 twinned Catholic Parishes in the US and Haiti alone.

One particular Haitian community, St. Jude Parish, is especially in need. Fr. Johnson has recently split its main church, 3 chapels, and 2 schools from St. Genevieve Parish which had grown too large for a single pastor to manage. Both parishes are currently twinned with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in the suburbs of Indianapolis, but it has gotten too big for them to continue. Fr. Johnson has developed a priority list of needs including restoration of the chapels, capture and storage of potable drinking water, and improving the schools. Support for 15 teachers, school supplies, and ongoing maintenance of Fr. Johnson’s truck is estimated to cost \$20,000 annually. If St. Augustine Parish were to join this program, it would help to focus several existing missionary programs, provide continuity of service, and encourage more parishioners to get involved personally.

The PPC had an open discussion that was very favorable to the twinning idea. Julie Kelley and Paul Romano offered to work with John McCormick to develop a plan for exploring this possibility further and presenting it to the Parish as a whole. John McCormick thanked the group for their support and after answering all questions, left the meeting.

Pastor’s Updates/Discussion:

- Feedback on Christmas Mass Schedule: Fr. Rich gave a summary of the Christmas Masses. The goal of this year’s schedule, “to provide a beautiful, devout, and prayerful celebration of Christmas that was safe,” was achieved. Overall, approximately 550 fewer people attended our Christmas liturgies (3,075 vs. 3,625 last year), but it can’t be determined whether fewer St. Augustine parishioners attended or that last year’s numbers included worshipers from other parishes at the Mass at Merrimack College. The 4:00

Mass at the Collins Center was filled to capacity (some people had to be turned away) while the 6:00 Mass was about 1/3 full.

In the discussion which followed, it was agreed that this year's schedule should be repeated next year with the expectation that more people will come as they get used to the times and venues.

- St. Augustine School Centennial and Gymnasium Plans: Fr. Peter reported that the Gym project is proceeding on schedule, with bids due next month and ground breaking as soon as the weather warms. The project is fully funded, with \$1.2 million in cash and pledges and a line of credit from the Archdiocese for the remainder.

Eugenie Moffitt mentioned that the School Centennial celebrations begin with an open house at the school on January 28th during Catholic School Week. Check the website (www.sas100.org) for details.

Old/New Business:

- Fr. Peter reported that the experiment since last October of keeping the Parish Office open Thursday evenings from 4:30-7:00 has not been justified with only 2 or 3 people coming during those hours. With the Council's agreement, these extended hours will be terminated.
- Fr. Peter passed out copies of Deacon Lou Piazza's homily at the Holy Hour for Life held January 21st. In his words it was "the best treatment of this topic he had ever heard!"
- Reminder that the annual Knights of Columbus Winter Warm-up Dinner Dance will be held again at the Tewksbury Country Club on Saturday, February 1st. This year's honoree is Bridget Shaheen from Lazarus House Ministries. Tickets are available in the Parish Office or from any KofC member.
- Bridger Rao, Director of Religious Education, has organized a Chastity presentation on Tuesday, February 4th featuring Matt Fradd for grades 7-10. All families are welcome whether or not children are in the Religious Education program.
- Schedule of Meetings at 7pm:
 - Thursday, March 13th – Conference Room 2
 - Thursday, May 8 – Assembly Hall
 - Saturday/Sunday May 24th/25th and May 31st/June 1st Nominations for 2015 PPC
 - Saturday, June 7th 4pm Mass – Vigil of Pentecost - Selection of New PPC Members
 - Saturday, June 14th – Transition Breakfast following 8am Mass – Assembly Hall

Closing Prayer, Petitions:

The meeting was closed with the Ignatian Prayer based on Pope Francis' May 19, 2013 sermon.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Reynolds, Vice Chair