



*St. Augustine Parish Community*  
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

March 6, 2012

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**Present:**

Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O'Leary, Sean Burke, Thomas Burke, Sheila Doherty, Erik Eldracher, Debra Falvey, Kim Grady, Julie Kelley, Paul Makowski, John Markiewicz, Rosemary McClune, William Melahn, Thomas Reynolds, Vice Chair, Klara Vajda and Guillermo Walle

**Absent:**

Barbara Biondo, Saverio Manago, Marianne Rhoads, Benoit Thibault

**Opening Prayer:**

"Fasting and Feasting" led by Fr. Peter.

**Reflective Reading and Sharing:**

Rule Principle Ten: Authority and Obedience as Service.

**Minutes from January 10, 2011:**

Approved as written.

**Discussion of The Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Commission (APPC)**

- Plan progress to date
  - Since the first meeting with priests of the Archdiocese in December, 2011, more than 30 local meetings have been held by the APPC members around the Archdiocese with Religious, Parish staffs, and Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils to obtain feedback on their draft proposal.
  - Augustinian Provincial, Fr. Genovese, met with the head of the APPC and mutually agreed that the Augustinians were pleased to continue to serve at St. Augustine in Andover and St. Mary of the Assumption in Lawrence. It was also discussed that greater coordination with Merrimack College would be explored.
  - Current version of the draft proposal recommends that St. Augustine and St. Robert Ballarmino parishes be formed into a Pastoral Collaborative.
  - Additional information is available on the St. Augustine web site (<http://staugustineparish.org/archdiocesan-pastoral-planning-process>) and via links to the APPC web site (<http://www.planning2012.com>).

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL March 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes

- Leadership Roles of PPC was discussed
  - To provide plentiful and accurate communications
  - To coordinate obtaining parish feedback for parish-wide questionnaire
  - To help get the message out to all parishioners, including Bulletin, Homily, Web site, E-Newsletter, Town Meeting, emails through Ministry Heads to all Ministries, communications through the School, etc.
- It was decided that Fr. Peter would discuss the proposed plan in his weekly Bulletin letter, then invite all parishioners to participate in a Consultation Town Meeting from the pulpit at all Masses on the weekend of March 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the Town Meetings/ Consultations would be held in the Church on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.
- To help as many parishioners as possible to fill out the online survey, paper copies of it would be available at the Town Meetings for anyone who was unable use the APPC web site. Parish staff would be made available to enter their survey results and/or to assist anyone coming to the Parish office with filling out the survey online.
- Fr. Peter noted that the feedback received regarding how the pastor of a collaborative would be chosen indicated a general opposition to the proposal that the new pastor would not be chosen from among the current pastors of the collaborative parishes. As an example of how the APPC has responded to the consultations so far, they have heard the feedback and have backed off following that particular principle.
- It was mentioned that the sentiment expressed by some St. Robert's attendees at the Consultation meeting at St. Michael's on February 8<sup>th</sup> indicated a concern in the pairing of St. Augustine and St. Robert parishes stemming from the differences between a Diocesan parish and an ordered (Augustinian) parish. There was also concern expressed about the relative size of the two parishes and how that might impact the collaborative.

### **Old/New Business:**

- Fr. Peter described how an Augustinian friar, Fr. John Shea at Boston College, had come out publicly in favor of ordination of women. He cautioned us to be prepared for some negative publicity for the Augustinians as a result of Fr. Shea's position.
- Upcoming PPC Meeting Dates:
  - Wed, April 11, 2012 – Assembly Hall  
(Post meeting note: Changed to Wed, April 18, 2012 – Assembly Hall)
  - Thurs, May 10, 2012 – Conference Room 2
  - Sat/Sun, May 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> – Nominations for 5 new PPC members
  - Sat. May 26, 2012 – Selection of 5 new PPC members at Vigil of Pentecost 4:00 PM Mass
  - Sat June 9, 2012 – PPC 8 AM Mass and Transition Breakfast

### **Closing Prayer and Petitions:**

The meeting was closed with the prayer of "Our Lady of Good Counsel."

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Reynolds, Vice Chair