



*St. Augustine Parish Community*  
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**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**March 10, 2011 – 7pm**  
**Center for Education and Ministry, Second Floor Conference Room**

**Present:** Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O’Leary, Barbara Biondo, Thomas Burke, Betty Desjardins, Janet Duffy, Erik Eldracher, Debra Falvey, Paul Makowski, Rosemary McClune, William Melahn, Thomas Reynolds, Benoit Thibault, Klara Vajda, Guillermo Walle

**Absent:** Claire Bishop, John Markiewicz, Saverio Manago, Anita Zompa

**Prayer:** “That All Would Know Jesus”

**Reflective Reading and Sharing:** Rule of St. Augustine, Principle 4: “Worship”

**Review and approval of Minutes from January 20, 2011 Meeting:**  
Minutes approved as written

**Progress Report on Summary of Visitation Experience:**

Vice-Chairman Reynolds distributed a report entitled “Points to Consider Taken from the Summary Report on the Visitation of the Very Reverend Arthur Coyle, V.E. Regional Episcopal Vicar in October 13, 2010.”

The Council read through the specifics of the document and discussed individual opportunities for parish improvement. A significant portion of discussion considered various aspects of communications and outreach. Fr. Peter emphasized the strength and proven value of one-to-one personal invitation; as exemplified in the current Archdiocesan program, “Catholics Come Home.”

It was noted that overall the information gathered in preparation for and following the Visitation of Fr. Coyle was very positive regarding St. Augustine Parish. The “Points to Consider” document should not be taken out of context and thought to imply otherwise. It was developed specifically to help the Council focus on the few areas where improvement might be possible and to stimulate discussion around what the PPC could help to drive.

Klara Vajda recommended the value of members seeing the Archdiocesan resource video by Dr. Tom Curran, director of Trinity Formation Resources; Fr. Peter agreed and will email council members an internet link to the video. (Post meeting note: the URL for this program is <http://vimeo.com/20544599>)

**Discussion of Goals and Directions Inspired by Visitation:**

As the discussion progressed, the following four proposals were made and agreed to by council members:

- The minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council meetings should be made available on the Parish website
- Consider the viability of soliciting email and or contact information during a high attendance Mass (i.e. Christmas and Easter) via either collection envelopes or bulletin insert
- Parish Pastoral Council membership should be published (with photos and contact information) in the bulletin - two or three times annually
- Parish staff should be invited to the Mass and Appreciation Breakfast; June 25, 2011, 8-10:00AM

A discussion of the existing Parish Mission Statement determined that it should be restated. Fr. Peter recommended that the new mission statement be both “contemporary” and “applicable”. In preparation for the next Parish Pastoral Council meeting (May 19, 2011), Fr. Peter asked that members contribute to the mission statement via group email. As a resource, Vice-Chairman Reynolds will distribute to members (via email) a guide to developing mission statements.

**Update on Discussion of Parish Ministry Renewal:**

Klara Vajda discussed the benefits she has obtained from the Archdiocesan program, “Catholics Come Home”; and, how she plans to integrate the programs recommendations into her own directorship of ministries.

Currently within the ninth year of CORI compliance, Fr. Peter emphasized, with clarity, the importance of 100% compliance. Fr. Peter further explained that although he is aware of some individuals who might need/want additional explanation, as to their particular applicability to CORI compliance, we should never be uncomfortable with an individual who turns down an opportunity to serve in a ministry, due to compliance. More often than not, an individual unwilling or reluctant to take the initial step of compliance cannot be depended upon to maintain vigilance in the subsequent requirements of compliance (such as no-closed-doors, reporting, etc.).

**Overview of “Catholics Come Home” program:**

Fr. Peter announced the untimely loss of David M. Thorp, Director of Catholics Come Home program, on January 9, 2011. Under these unfortunate circumstances, the program was still able to begin, as planned, on Ash Wednesday and the television advertisements are being broadcast. This initiative was developed with an expectation of parish level spontaneity and creativity. In that light, Fr. Peter asked for and received the agreement of council members to participate when called upon to support individuals, that might benefit from their “companionship”; when coming back home to the Catholic Church.

**Old/New Business:**

- A musical concert entitled "I THIRST - the Crucifixion Story", by Tajci, will take place in St. Augustine Church on May 14, 2011, at 7:00PM
- Temple Emanuel has begun hosting Networking Open Houses for the unemployed. The most recent open house was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, from 6:30-8:30PM. Fr. Peter will keep in touch with Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein and announce future dates and opportunities as they arise.
- An artistic presentation entitled "The Way of Salvation?", by Gay P. Cox, is being exhibited between March 5-13, 2011, at the Free Christian Church, 31 Elm Street, Andover, MA
- Future Meeting Dates
  - May 19, 2011
  - June 11, 2011 – Selection of New PPC Members at 4PM Mass
  - June 25, 2011 – 8:00 Mass and Appreciation Breakfast 8 – 10 AM

**Closing Prayer and Petitions:**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Erik A. Eldracher