



St. Augustine Parish Community
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
May 19, 2011 – 7pm
Center for Education and Ministry, Second Floor Conference Room

Present:

Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O’Leary, Barbara Biondo, Thomas Burke, Janet Duffy, Erik Eldracher, Debra Falvey, Paul Makowski, Saverio Manago, John Markiewicz, Rosemary McClune, Thomas Reynolds, Klara Vajda, Guillermo Walle

Absent:

Claire Bishop, Betty Desjardins, William Melahn, Benoit Thibault, Anita Zompa

Prayer: Augustinian Prayer (Latin and English versions)

Reflective Reading and Sharing:

Rule of St. Augustine, Principle 5: Moderation and Self Denial

Review and approval of Minutes from March 10, 2011 Meeting:

Minutes approved with minor correction.

Update on “Catholics Come Home” and “The Light is On for You” Programs:

The Catholics Come Home program will be an ongoing effort. The focused ad campaign during Lent was generally received positively by practicing Catholics, but the long term success of the program depends on everyone in the community embodying the message “All are welcome”. Statistics will be available from the Archdiocese next year.

Lent was the third time for The Light is On for You program. As during prior times, the number of people taking advantage of Wednesday evening Reconciliation started slowly and increased. The last week of Lent four priests were needed to accommodate all the penitents.

Status of “Cricket Field” project:

The deadline for submitting a formal proposal to the town could not be met due to several factors. A current appraisal for the property was not available and the attorneys for the Archdiocese were not able to get all of their questions answered in time. We are proceeding with getting a formal appraisal completed should there be another opportunity to offer the land for sale.

Directed Discussion and Creation of Parish Mission Statement:

One of the conclusions reached at the last PPC meeting was that a new Parish Mission Statement would be helpful. Members of the Council had exchanged ideas via email

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after the last meeting and Vice Chairman Reynolds had compiled them into a document which highlighted the three major components of a Mission statement: Purpose, Business Statement, and Values. After a very open and productive discussion, a new draft Mission Statement was constructed:

“St. Augustine Parish is a welcoming Roman Catholic faith community ministered by the Augustinian Friars in Andover, MA. United by our Baptismal commitment, we aspire to be the embodiment of Christ’s continued loving presence on earth. We enrich the parish, the greater community, and ourselves through worship, evangelization, service, and education.”

Fr. Peter pointed out that the process of creating a Mission Statement is every bit as valuable as the final product. It was agreed that this draft would be passed on to the next PPC for further discussion before finalization.

Old/New Business:

- The musical concert by Tajci that took place in St. Augustine Church on May 14th was very well received with more than 400 in attendance.
- Barbara Biondo had offered to take the PPC minutes starting this coming Fall.
- Preparation for selection of new PPC members is underway. The nomination forms are on the web site and will be included in the bulletin the weekends of 5/22 and 5/29. Nominations will be collected the weekend of 6/5. All nominees will be contacted by Fr. Peter or Tom Reynolds to discuss and confirm their interest. The selection will take place at the 4:00PM Mass on 6/11, the Vigil of Pentecost. Five new members will be selected for 3 year terms replacing Claire Bishop, Betty Desjardins, Janet Duffy, Tom Reynolds, and Anita Zompa.
- The new and updated St. Augustine Parish web site has received numerous compliments. Most people think it is more modern looking and easier to navigate. The new E-newsletter has also been launched.
- Update to the goals inspired by Fr. Coyle’s visitation:
Five specific goals were endorsed at the last PPC meeting. Each was reviewed to verify that someone is responsible for making sure that each is achieved.
 - The minutes of the PPC meetings should be made available on the Parish website – Complete
 - 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 – census cards were in the pews during Lent, but it has been agreed that an even better way to collect this information would be to include it with the Christmas and Easter Mass Schedules that are mailed to all registered parishioners. Tom Reynolds will make sure this is done next October when the mailings are prepared for Christmas.
 - PPC membership should be published (with photos and contact information) in the bulletin two or three times annually. It was agreed that the information published on the web site was adequate provided pictures were added. Saverio Manago offered to bring a camera to the June 25th meeting to take the pictures.

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- Parish staff should be invited to the Mass and Appreciation Breakfast June 25th – Fr. Peter and Klara Vajda will invite the parish staff.
- A discussion of the existing Parish Mission Statement determined that it should be restated – progress toward a new Mission Statement was made at this meeting and will be continued in the Fall.
- PPC Upcoming Meeting Dates:
 - June 11, 2011 – Selection of New PPC Members at 4PM Mass
 - June 25, 2011 – 8:00 Mass and Appreciation Breakfast 8-10AM

Closing Prayer and Petitions:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Reynolds, Vice Chairman