



St. Augustine Parish Community
43 Essex St.
Andover, Massachusetts 01810-3779
Tel: 978-475-0050 • Fax: 978-475-3078

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

October 13, 2011

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O'Leary, Sean Burke, Sheila Doherty, Paul Makowski, Saverio Manago, John Markiewicz, Rosemary McClune, Thomas Reynolds, Vice Chair, Marianne Rhoads, Benoit Thibault, Klara Vajda, and Guillermo Walle

Absent:

Barbara Biondo, Thomas Burke, Erik Eldracher, Debra Falvey, Kim Grady, Julie Kelley, William Melahn

Opening Prayer: A Prayer for Autumn Days led by Fr. Peter

Reflective Reading and Sharing:

Rule Principle Seven: "Humility".

Minutes from September 8, 2011 Meeting:

Fr. Rich noted that Nancy Naimey was "hired", not "elected" as assistant principal of St. Augustine School. Minutes were then approved with this update.

Pastor's Remarks:

- Fr. Peter reviewed compliance by the PPC with CORI forms and "Protecting God's Children" training. He emphasized that we need to seriously consider the issues of child safety, both in the parish, and in the greater community where we live and work.
- Fr. Peter announced that the Cheverus Award recipient from our parish for this year is Benoit Thibault. The Cheverus Award recognizes a layperson "who has served the parish well over an extended period of time and has served in a quiet, unassuming and perhaps unrecognized fashion." Cardinal Seán started it as a yearly award in 2008 and parishes in the diocese take turns submitting nominees. This year Cardinal Seán also selected Brother John to receive an award. The Awards Liturgy Prayer Service at the Cathedral in Boston will be on November 20th at 3 PM. Plans will be made for bus transportation.

PPC Communications Outreach Series – Bridget Rao, Director of Religious Education:

Bridget reviewed the Religious Ed program at St. Augustine's Parish with great enthusiasm and energy. She described the rich experiences the students receive in Sacramental preparation, Community Service, and Liturgy worship.

- Janice Zackular – Grades 1-3; Peggy Coleman – Grades 4-6; Bridget Rao – Grades 7-8; Katie LeBlanc – Confirmation. Only Bridget is full-time.
- This year's registration process used both email and paper mailings – next year they will add online payment. Even so, they still have many late registrations.

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- Enrollment for 1,030 students from 623 families to date, with about 25 home-schooled students who also receive on-going support from the Religious Ed staff. First grade enrollment is inexplicably up 40 students this year over its typical size.
- Teacher recruitment is difficult, made more challenging by the goal to keep class size at 10-12. This year, besides parents, three Merrimack college students and several High School students have volunteered to teach.
- Another challenge that the Religious Ed program struggles with is that many students come from homes where faith is very weak and the parents do not go to Sunday Mass regularly. Fr. Peter noted that this problem of parents not attending Sunday Mass is very wide spread and it will be addressed by the Cardinal shortly in a pastoral letter.
- This last fact means that Religious Ed, not the pulpit or the bulletin or the web site is the primary point of contact for more than 500 of the parish's families – a responsibility and an opportunity requiring creative attention.
- Bridget noted that she emphasizes to parents that the program provides a moral framework for facing life's difficult decisions. For many students, the Religious Ed setting is the only place where topics of morality are openly discussed.

Concluding Discussion of Parish Mission Statement:

The final version of the Mission Statement was approved after some small wording changes:

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

There followed a discussion of how best to communicate it to the parish: on the web site, in the Bulletin, posted in the Assembly Hall in the Parish Center, etc. This will be an ongoing topic of discussion and action.

Old/New Business:

- Vocation Awareness Week begins October 22-23. This year it was moved to the Fall so that vocation events can be spread out over the whole school year. Jamie Stuart Wolfe will be speaking at the Masses the weekend of October 22-23. There is a new banner in each church and new prayer cards with special intentions for each day of the week. The week will conclude on Saturday, October 29th, with a Meditative Rosary in the Church. Finally, there are some very good links on the topic of vocations on the parish web site.
- Pictures of the PPC members have now been posted on the web site.
- Saverio Manago raised the need for a larger space in the back of the church for families with young children who are acting restless. Fr. Peter agreed that the problem is important, but that there is currently no available space, so it would need to be reviewed as part of any future renovation plans.
- The next speaker in the Communications Outreach Series will be determined by Fr. Peter.

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- Announcements:
 - The PPC Christmas gathering will be on December 3rd at 6PM at Benoit Thibault's home. Debra Falvey will be coordinating what people should bring.
 - December 3rd at 8AM is a Ministry Leadership Morning with Andreas Widmer addressing the group. He has recently written a book entitled *The Pope & The CEO: John Paul II's Leadership Lessons to a Young Swiss Guard* which explores principles of Christian leadership.
 - The Parish Financial Statement will be released with the bulletin on October 22nd.
 - The 2nd annual memorial Mass for stillborn and miscarried children will be celebrated on November 5th. Fr. Peter and Kathy Sexton will discuss this topic on AM1060 – Station of the Cross Radio on October 18th from 4-5PM.
- Upcoming PPC Meeting Dates:
 - Thurs, November 10, 2011 – Assembly Hall
 - Sat, December 3, 2011 – Christmas gathering
 - Tues, January 10, 2012 – Conference Room 2
 - Tues, March 6, 2012 – Conference Room 2
 - Wed, April 11, 2012 – Assembly Hall
 - Thurs, May 10, 2012 – Conference Room 2
 - Sat/Sun, May 12th/13th and 19th/20th – 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 8am Mass and Transition Breakfast

Closing Prayer and Petitions:

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

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Rhoads