



*St. Augustine Parish Community*  
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

January 10, 2012

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**Present:**

Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O’Leary, Barbara Biondo, Sean Burke, Sheila Doherty, Erik Eldracher, Kim Grady, Julie Kelley, Paul Makowski, John Markiewicz, Saverio Manago, Rosemary McClune, William Melahn, Thomas Reynolds, Vice Chair, Marianne Rhoads, Benoit Thibault, Klara Vajda and Guillermo Walle

**Absent:**

Thomas Burke, Debra Falvey

Also in attendance was Sr. Madonna Kling, Sister of Divine Providence and new part-time member of the parish staff. Sr. Madonna’s position is Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation and Education at St. Augustine’s.

**Opening Prayer:**

“Prayer for a New Year” led by Fr. Peter.

**Reflective Reading and Sharing:**

Rule Principle Nine: Reconciliation.

**PPC Communications Outreach Series:**

Sr. Madonna remarked how delighted she is to be on the team at St. Augustine’s. She then updated the Council on her projects to date at the parish:

- Worked with Klara on the recent Ministry Day.
- Helped organize the 1/14/12 Retreat featuring Dr. Scott Hahn.
- Worked with Danette Morris on the “Why Catholic” program which begins this Lent.
- Met with the Adult Education Committee to discuss the current and future needs of the parish. The Committee has recently decided to disband as they feel their mission has been fulfilled.
- In the Spring, Sr. Madonna hopes to meet with members of committees involved with adult formation and any other interested parties to learn more about the parish, identify any needs we are not fulfilling in these areas, and focus on ways to address them.
- Sr. Madonna gave a brief overview of the upcoming “Why Catholic” series, a four-year faith formation and evangelization program for adults to explore their Catholic faith based on the Catechism and Sacred Scripture.

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- She noted that the first topic will be Prayer (six week study in the Spring and again in the Fall). She explained how this is an opportunity for every Catholic to gain a solid foundation in their faith and to build confidence about reaching out to others in faith.
- Facilitators and team members were commissioned this past week-end and registration will begin soon.
- The small study groups will determine their meeting frequency/schedule which adds to the program's flexibility.
- An outreach is being made to religious education and Catholic school parents, parishioners, and eventually to the Confirmation students to participate.

Sr. Madonna stated she welcomed all input and suggestions the Council or parishioners might have.

Sr. Madonna and the Parish Council were unanimous in expressing their gratitude and appreciation to Klara for the workload she has been carrying and the important results she has achieved.

Sr. Madonna answered all questions from the Council, and then left the meeting.

### **Minutes from November 10, 2011:**

After discussion, the minutes were approved with changes noted. The corrected version will be posted on the website.

### **Pastor's Remarks:**

- Pastoral Planning Commission 2012:  
Fr. Peter noted that the Pastoral Planning Process is underway in our Archdiocese, and the first meeting was held 12/5/11. The purpose of this Planning Process is to focus on the means by which pastoral services can be provided to all our parishes. Parishes will determine how to use their resources through partnering and collaboration.

There are now 290 parishes which will be grouped into approximately 125 Pastoral Collaboratives each supported by a Pastoral Service Team (PST). These collaboratives will be formed to have a target of at least 1,600 weekly Mass attendees and will honor municipal boundaries and school districts whenever possible. A projected annual offertory of \$500,000 will also be one of the criteria used to maximize financial self-sufficiency of each collaborative.

Fr. Peter stated that Cardinal Sean wants to have as much representation as possible in the planning not only to manage diminishing resources but to jump start and empower evangelization in the Church. The Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Commission is focused on an approach that will strengthen our current parish-based ministries, evangelization efforts, and parish staffing without altering the parishes themselves.

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Fr. Peter noted several of the factors leading to the need for these steps. Priests are not being replaced in sufficient numbers. There are a growing number of parishes unable to pay their bills (40%) while costs of services in all parishes continue to climb, and there is diminishing attendance at Mass. The Parish Service Collaborative is a way for parishioners to continue to be a member of their own parish while sharing resources with other parishes in the collaborative. As an example, Fr. Peter noted that within a given Collaborative, Parish Councils will be integrated, Finance Committees will be combined, and parish staffing for the parishes will be linked.

One of the first duties of the Collaborative will be to develop a Pastoral Plan which will state how to best utilize and apportion their resources, property, and facilities in synchronization with the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese. Further rounds of consultations with archdiocesan and parish leadership will be conducted over the next several months.

Please visit the website [www.planning2012.com](http://www.planning2012.com) or [www.bostoncatholic.org/2012planning.aspx](http://www.bostoncatholic.org/2012planning.aspx) for updates on all activities.

- Fr. Peter mentioned that the third annual Knights of Columbus Dinner Dance will be held January 28, 2012 at the Tewksbury Country Club and will honor Brother John J. DelCasale, OSA.

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

- Benoit Thibault reported that the Parish Properties Commission, which was established last January with a mission is to advise the pastor regarding maintenance, repair, and renovation of parish properties, held one meeting over the past year and will be scheduling another meeting shortly.
- Upcoming PPC Meeting Dates:
  - Tues, March 6, 2012 – Conference Room 2
  - Wed, April 11, 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
- Items tabled until next PPC Meeting:
  - Update on Mass attendance from October, 2011 counts.
  - Thoughts and reflections on the recent Christmas liturgy.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Biondo, Recording Secretary