



*St. Augustine Parish Community*  
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

September 6, 2012

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**Present:**

Fr. Peter Gori, Barbara Biondo, Sean Burke, Thomas Burke, Sheila Doherty, Erik Eldracher, Debra Falvey, Kathy George, Kim Grady, Pat Jennings, Michelle Karlberg, John Markiewicz, Thomas Reynolds, Vice Chair, Marianne Rhoads, Thomas Rickenbarker, and Klara Vajda.

**Absent:**

Fr. Richard O'Leary, Julie Kelley and Benoit Thibault.

**Opening Prayer:**

Psalm 34 led by Fr. Peter.

**Reflective Reading and Sharing:**

Rule Principle One: Unity and Harmony.

Bridget Rao, Director of Religious Education, then joined the meeting.

**PPC Communications Outreach Series:**

Bridget Rao, Director of Religious Education for approximately the last 4-5 years, gave an overview of the past and current program, noting the areas that have been strengthened by the partnering Confirmation I and II and the Youth Ministry.

Confirmation preparation runs for two years (Grades 9 and 10) with the celebration of the sacrament occurring in the early fall of junior year. Typically Confirmation I is a review and instruction to ensure all students are at the same level as they enter the second year. Catechesis, Prayer Nights, Teen Masses, and Service are the main themes of the program and participation in all is expected. Additionally, a retreat and a student interview in the second year complete the Confirmation preparation process.

Catechesis is centered on the meaning of the sacrament as expressed in the Rite of Confirmation and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Prayer Nights, which are most popular with the teens, are offered to the students and their families to aid in their spiritual development. Monthly Teen Masses encourage the Confirmation candidates to participate in the liturgical life of the parish, with opportunities to take on roles in the liturgical ministries, including lector, music, and hospitality. Service encourages the students to follow Jesus' life - "I have come to serve not to be served" and as such these experiences should be centered on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Candidates are

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expected to complete 20 hours of service each year. There are opportunities within the parish for service, but finding appropriate service in the wider community is encouraged.

Bridget continues her outreach to local schools to make the information about the Confirmation program accessible to all. She circulated for the Council's review reference materials used in the course as well as a handout from Katie Scanlon LeBlanc, Head of Youth Ministry, highlighting the partnership between Youth Ministry and Confirmation. Katie, who could not attend tonight, will be invited to a future meeting.

Bridget answered all questions from the Council and then left the meeting.

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

- Overview of PPC functions and goals for 2012-13: Fr. Peter reviewed the goals of the PPC: 1) assisting the Pastor in his leadership role by offering its prayerful advice and guidance, 2) working together with the Pastor to discern the pastoral needs of the parish and ways in which those needs can be addressed, and 3) striving to foster unity and a sense of community in the parish.
- Update on Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Process: On June 7, 2012 a convocation of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston met to discuss Evangelization and the progress of the Pastoral Planning Initiative. "Disciples in Mission", the completed Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning document ([www.planning2012.com](http://www.planning2012.com)), has been presented to Cardinal Sean O'Malley for his approval. This proposal has been worked on for the past 18 months, and there is overwhelming support for moving ahead. Phase I implementation (a small group of eager Parishes willing to be in the pilot program) will begin in 2013 with Phases II and III the following years. While compliance will not be optional, there will be flexibility in implementing the plan. It was suggested that once it has been approved, a joint town-meeting with St. Augustine's and St. Robert's parishioners might be scheduled to discuss the document.
- Brother John has left St. Augustine's and has transferred to the Augustinian Retirement Infirmary based at its headquarters in Villanova. This transition, while difficult for all at St. Augustine's, will enable Brother John to be closer to his family and to also have 24-hour nursing care. His financial duties have been assumed by Karen Miller, St. Augustine's Business Manager.
- Lou Piazza, the new permanent Deacon for St. Augustine's, will be ordained 9/22/12. Fr. Peter and Lou are working out Lou's ministerial duties: preaching and outreach/social services in addition to his assignment with the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese requires that new Deacons and their wife/family agree to all proposed duties.
- The new entrance to St. Joseph's Church has been completed with assistance from Girl Scout Troop 60910's Silver Award Project. Because of the various requirements to make St. Joseph's handicapped accessible (both inside and out), it was decided not to attempt that as part of the project. Also, St. Augustine's Church, less than 3 miles away, is handicapped accessible.
- The new Liberty Flagpole in front of St. Augustine Church is the gift of William and Alice Hart. The US flag and the Vatican flag will fly there together

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identifying us as Catholics and Americans and honoring all those from St. Augustine who have served in the US Armed Forces. The flagpole will be dedicated on Monday, September 10, 2012 after the 8 am Mass. A 20" x 14" dedication brass plaque will be mounted on granite stone at the base of the flagpole, and the flagpole will be lit at night.

- The planning for the new School gymnasium is continuing with the target completion date of the School's year-end 2012-2013. As with all similar projects, the Parish must have 50% cash on hand and 80% of total amount pledged for the gymnasium before the Archdiocese will approve this endeavor.
- Fr. Peter reminded the Council of the initiative on the ballot this election regarding "Physician Assisted Suicide" and asked for our careful reflection.
- This October is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vatican II Council. Pope Benedict has proclaimed this year as a "Year of Faith, 2012-2013." Sr. Madonna, our part-time Adult Ed/Faith Formation Coordinator, will focus on this.

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

- Introduction and Welcome for new and returning Council members was held.
- Klara distributed CORI forms for completion by anyone who had not yet done so.
- Barbara Biondo was reappointed Recording Secretary.
- Sheila Doherty informed the Council about *Distractology 101 – A Crash Course in Distracted Driving*, the driving simulator developed by the University of Massachusetts and presented by Arbella Insurance, which will be in Andover next week. The simulator accurately depicts what happens when you text while driving. An appointment is needed to attend the 45 minute course and teenagers who complete the course receive a \$15 gas card.
- Upcoming PPC Meeting Dates:
  - Thursday, October 11, 2012
  - Thursday, November 8, 2012
  - December Social Gathering – TBD
  - Thursday, January 10, 2013
  - Thursday, March 14, 2013
  - Thursday, April 4, 2013
  - Thursday, May 16, 2013
  - May 4-5 and 11-12, 2013 – Nominations for new members
  - Saturday, May 18, 2013 4PM Mass – Selection of new members
  - Saturday, June 1, 2013 – PPC 8 AM Mass and Transition Breakfast

### **Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Petitions:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Biondo, Recording Secretary