

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

May 7, 2015

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**Present:** Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O’Leary, Deacon Lou Piazza, Sr. Madonna Kling, Barbara Biondo, Erik Eldracher, Michele Karlberg, Eugenie Moffitt, Susan Ratyna, Tom Rickenbacker, Paul Romano, Dana Rowland, Eileen Rullo, Allyson Smith and Klara Vajda.

**Absent:** Deacon Michael Curren, Cindy Cookson, Debra Falvey, Kathy George, William Green, Brad Heim and Pat Jennings.

**Minutes from March 16, 2015 Meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council meeting held March 16, 2015 were circulated via email, accepted as presented and have been posted on the Parish’s website.

**Opening Prayer:** Our Lady of Good Counsel.

**Presentation on the New Evangelization:** This month’s New Evangelization focus was on the belief that churches ought to flow like a river and not sit motionless like a lake. As part of Sr. Madonna’s continuing presentation on the New Evangelization, the Council viewed a DVD on this subject. Sr. Madonna then requested the Council share their thoughts on what is their testimony of their ministry and what actions speak of the objective values of goodness, unity and welcome. After forming small discussion groups, each group discussed and summarized their findings on the related topic for the other Council members.

**Calendar Review – Upcoming Events:** Fr. Peter handed out the Archdiocesan Guidelines describing the characteristics and responsibilities of the Parish Pastoral Council and noted that the terms of the following five members of the Council end this May: Deb Falvey, Kathy George, Pat Jennings, Michelle Karlberg and Tom Rickenbacher. Fr. Peter thanked these members for their three years of service on the Council. He also noted that Greg Clements resigned during the year for medical reasons, and Fr. Peter has not yet decided if that seat would be filled.

Paul Romano reminded the Council of the following calendar items and the schedule for the 2015 Pastoral Council Nomination Process:

- Sunday, May 17 all those who have joined our faith community since January 1<sup>st</sup> are invited to an informal gathering with light refreshments immediately following the 11:30 am Mass.
- Selection for the new PPC members will be made at the Vigil of Pentecost Mass, 4pm on May 23.
- Transition Mass and Breakfast for current and new PPC members – June 6, 8am Mass with light breakfast following. Sr. Madonna volunteered to assist Paul with the breakfast.

**Annual Catholic Appeal:** Fr. Peter stated that he is quite hopeful that the number of participants goal will be achieved this year. The threshold of 400 contributors participating needs to be crossed in order for the parish to receive a return of approximately \$20,000 as appreciation for good results. Fr. Peter acknowledged the Parish’s good and generous support of the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Parish has come from the bottom 10% participation in the Appeal in 2009 to the top 10% participation in

2014. Fr. Peter acknowledged that the coordination and leadership of John and Nuala Carlson as leaders of the Parish's Annual Catholic Appeal has greatly contributed to this accomplishment.

**St. Augustine's Sesquicentennial 2016-2017:** Fr. Peter is looking for volunteers to staff the Core Planning Committee and the Communications/Publicity Committee. One suggestion as a community building project in 2017 was to have a gala dinner dance. Fr. Peter will put an invitation in the bulletin regarding an open meeting to see who would be interested in planning the upcoming celebration.

Sr. Madonna suggested having a spiritual theme throughout the 2016-2017 Sesquicentennial. Various options were discussed utilizing the rule of St. Augustine's "One Mind and One Heart, Intent Upon God." Suggestions for a year-long theme incorporating St. Augustine's message and St. Augustine's Parish journey over the past 150 years should be forward to Sr. Madonna at [srmadonna@staugustineparish.org](mailto:srmadonna@staugustineparish.org). Sr. Madonna will serve on the Core Planning Committee.

A modest capital campaign, concurrent with the Sesquicentennial, is being considered to paint the church, update the electrical system, restore some of the stained glass windows and refurbish the church organ which is approximately 70 years old.

**Parish Council Visibility Update:**

- Eileen Rullo has been working with Danette Morris regarding the update of PPC information on the Website. She noted the Website has been rearranged now to include a description of what the PPC does. She also stated that Council photos are in the process of being updated and posted on the website.
- Paul mentioned that the Council's name tags have been ordered.
- Paul also noted that approved minutes of all PPC meetings have been posted to the website.

**Pastor's Remarks:**

- PPC member Bill Green was absent from the 5/7/15 meeting because his wife, Claire Bishop, was receiving the "Citizens Who Care" award granted by the Rotary Club this evening for her work with the Lazarus House.
- Pope Francis has proclaimed a "Year of Consecrated Life" from 11/30/14 to 2/2/16. A Mass of Thanksgiving for Augustinian Religious Life and Vocations with Renewal of Vows by the Augustinian Friars will be held Friday, 5/8/15, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Lawrence, MA. Fr. Peter stated there was an open invitation to all to attend.
- Sr. Madonna is celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a religious sister of the Congregation of Divine Providence and will renew her vows on Saturday, June 6, 2015, at the 4pm Mass here at St. Augustine's.
- St. Augustine's will host an Augustinian student in formation from the province of Italy from July/August with the goal of helping him learn more about the Augustinian world and also to help him enhance his conversational English. Fr. Peter is looking for a volunteer to spend one hour a day in conversation with him to help him with his English.
- Fr. Rich and Fr. Peter will attend the Annual Gathering of the Augustinians at Villanova, PA from June 8 - June 12. St. Michaels will be on-call for funerals during that time frame.
- St. Augustine's is in negotiations with Borrego Solar Systems, Lowell, MA, to lease four acres of unusable, surplus land located at the St. Augustine Cemetery. The contract is being worked on by the attorneys at the Archdiocese on our behalf. The parish would be paid a yearly fee from Borrego, and we would be able to purchase electricity at a reduced rate.

- The Centennial Gym is very close to completion, and soon the School will be able to apply for temporary occupancy permit. Fr. Peter noted that the gym will be ready for use by this year's graduation class at St. Augustine.
- Fr. Peter has had a third meeting with architects regarding St. Julie House (the house on school campus purchased last June). The Nursery and Pre-K classes will be relocated to St. Julie's over the summer, and therefore, will free up space below the church for general purposes.
- As part of the New Evangelization, the Archdiocese is offering free of charge to all parishes the new quarterly publication, "*i catholic*" to forward to all those on their parish mailing list.
- Pregnancy Care Center 2015 Walk for Life will be held Saturday, June 13, 2015. There are three walk locations. The Andover Walk location is at Free Christian Church, 31 Elm Street, Andover, MA. The PCC's biggest fundraiser, the Baby Bottle Campaign, will commence on Mothers' Day.

The meeting was closed with the Our Father.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Biondo, Recording Secretary