



St. Augustine Parish Community
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

April 18, 2012

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Fr. Peter Gori, Fr. Richard O'Leary, Barbara Biondo, Thomas Burke, Sheila Doherty, Erik Eldracher, Paul Makowski, John Markiewicz, William Melahn, Thomas Reynolds, Vice Chair, Marianne Rhoads, and Klara Vajda.

Absent:

Sean Burke, Debra Falvey, Kim Grady, Julie Kelley, Saverio Manago, Rosemary McClune, Benoit Thibault, and Guillermo Walle.

Also in attendance was Michael O'Dea, Director of Facilities and Cemetery for St. Augustine Parish.

Opening Prayer:

Psalm 104 led by Fr. Peter.

Reflective Reading and Sharing:

Rule Principle Eleven: Ongoing Conversion.

PPC Communications Outreach Series:

Mike O'Dea, Director of Facilities and Cemetery for St. Augustine's Parish, spoke about his duties and responsibilities overseeing the maintenance and emergency maintenance during the last nine years. His areas of responsibility include the parish facilities at St. Augustine Church, Rectory and adjacent garage, St. Joseph Church, Center for Education and Ministry Building, St. Augustine School, St. Augustine Convent, and St. Augustine Cemetery.

Mike recounted some of the recently completed projects including driveways and window replacement, updating the library, installation of chairlifts and a fire panel in the Rectory, installation of new kneelers and altar floor in St. Augustine Church, fixing gutters and the slate roof at St. Augustine Church, and installing a fence at the nursery playground for the safety of the children.

The focus at the School has been replacement of all the windows, installation of a new science lab (obtained from the closing of Nazareth Academy in Wakefield), updating the library and the teachers' room, and updating three bathrooms. In addition, the parking lot has been redone. Future plans to start this fall include a new pre-engineered gymnasium to be built at the back of the school (the water line/fire hydrant to service this new

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building has already been installed). Fr. Peter emphasized that this proposal is scaled way back from what was contemplated several years ago which resulted in undertaking a capital campaign to expand/update parish buildings. A general capital fund raiser will not be necessary for this project.

Mike also mentioned that the convent is in good shape although the house foundation had to be dug up and repaired last year due to settlement. Also, in order to save space, the Cemetery now offers double-depth crypts in addition to the remaining 60 regular graves.

As part of their community project, the Girl Scouts approached Fr. Peter and offered to assist in updating the front steps of St. Joseph's Church. This project will include a handicapped accessible railing (removable to allow for caskets) across the front of a new platform and new steps to the right and left of the railing. It is anticipated that this project will be completed this summer.

Fr. Peter and Mike updated the Council on the ongoing fire hydrant/water problem issues at St. Augustine Drive. It was suggested that the Andover Board of Selectmen be kept informed of St. Augustine's proposed new gymnasium project during the planning phase and throughout the project.

The Parish Council was unanimous in expressing how fortunate the Parish is to have Michael O'Dea as its Director of Facilities, and expressed their gratitude and appreciation for his great dedication while maintaining a cheerful disposition.

Mike O'Dea answered all questions from the Council, and then left the meeting.

Minutes from March 6, 2012:

The minutes were accepted as presented and will be posted on the website.

St. Augustine Parish Questionnaire Response for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Commission:

The Draft Questionnaire Response for St. Augustine Parish, prepared by Barbara, Deb, Kim, Julie, Rosemary, and Tom from notes taken at the Town meetings on 3/20/12 and 3/24/12, was presented. The goal of the document was to summarize the discussions at these meetings while avoiding editorializing. The Council unanimously felt the document accurately articulated the reactions and perspectives of the Parishioners. It was thus approved as presented with one minor typo change. It will be posted on our website and presented to the Archdiocesan Planning Commission prior to the due date of 5/1/12.

Pastor's Remarks:

- Parish Pastor Council (PPC) Selection Process:
 - Each spring, five new members are selected for the PPC to serve for a three-year term. In this way, one-third of the Council changes each year. The five members whose terms are completed this year are Debra Falvey, Paul Makowski, Rosemary McClune, William Melahn, and Guillermo Walle.

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- Fr. Peter reviewed the nomination/selection process for the new candidates:
 - Instructional messages in bulletin weekends of April 21-22, 28-29, and May 5-6.
 - Nomination form in bulletin May 12-13 and 19-20. Nominations due Monday, May 21st.
 - Verification by Tom Reynolds and Fr. Peter of willingness to serve if selected, May 21-24.
 - Selection of 5 new members at 4pm Mass on May 26th, Vigil of Pentecost.
- The proposed partnering with St. Robert's parish will not interfere with the schedule of St. Augustine's PPC selection process. The collaboration will be phased-in with the earliest likely implementation beginning in 2013.
- The Parish received positive feedback on Masses held at Merrimack College during the Easter week-end. However, not enough people took advantage of the opportunity. It was felt that over time, it will become more familiar to use Merrimack College's facilities.

Old/New Business:

- Klara reviewed the Mass attendance figures which are compiled annually for the Archdiocese during the four week-ends in October. Mass attendance shows a downward trend from 2009 to 2011 (1,917 in 2009 and 1,730 in 2011).
- Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of moving the Sunday evening Mass from St. Augustine's to Merrimack College in an attempt to attract more resident students. The general opinion was that this was not desirable.
- Upcoming PPC Meeting Dates:
 - Thurs, May 10, 2012 – Conference Room 2
 - Sat June 9, 2012 – 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