

St. Augustine Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes from September 20, 2018

Present: Fr. Peter, Fr. Art, Sr. Madonna, Dcn Lou, Pat Jennings, Cindy Cookson, Maura Reardon, Carla Burns, Eric Eldracher, Cathy Thompson, Marta Stiglin

1. The meeting was opened with introductions and prayer with a special remembrance of all of those affected by the gas disaster in the Merrimack Valley, especially Richard Padova whose house was damaged and many others still displaced.
2. Practical matters such as cori forms, correct emails, etc. were discussed.
3. Merrimack Valley discussion
 - a) School, Friary, Church, Pastoral Center are without gas, much needs to be accomplished before there is full restoration of gas. No timeline has been given as of yet.
 - b) Marta Stiglin suggested reaching out to the community, more info on the website, matching needs and resources. A lengthy but valuable discussion followed.
 - c) Dcn Lou, Carla Burns, Marta Stiglin formed a team to further discuss implications and actions that could be taken this weekend. They will work with Danette in this effort.
 - d) The overall conclusion was that this is an opportunity for St. Augustine to be the face of Jesus to those in need, an opportunity to bring the St. Augustine community together to respond in Christian service to their neighbors. This weekend the priests will strive to inspire and encourage parishioners to reach out and care for their neighbor as best they can.
4. Maura Reardon recognized the coming together of the Christian community in St. James, Haverhill welcoming us to their church to celebrate Confirmation. It was a beautiful ceremony in which staff and ministries worked together to make it a joyful ceremony in an otherwise sad time.
5. Crisis in the Catholic Church was also discussed. The 2002 trauma in the Archdiocese led to development of guidelines and workshops that inform and guard against abuse of any kind. But the disclosures in the Pennsylvania have caused more grief and surfaced feelings of anger at the cover-ups as well as the acts themselves. Our church is going through a difficult time. As a community we are responding with a Hope and Healing prayer service on Sunday evening. It is hope that as many of us as can will be present to support and pray for the victims, the perpetrators, and those who covered it up and ask forgiveness for our sins as a church and for the scandal and loss of faith it has engendered.
6. Because it is such a public scandal, Marta Stiglin suggested that at some appropriate time we might consider a more public response.

Respectfully submitted,
Sr. Madonna Kling, CDP