

Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2019

Present: Fr. Art Johnson, OSA, Pat Jennings, Dcn. Lou Piazza, Dcn Mike Curren, Carla Burns, David York, Ken DeBenedictus, Chris O'Reilly, Maureen Reardon, Cathy Thompson, Suzie Scarpulla, Eric Eldracher, Paula Dennett, Marta Stiglin, David Hart, Sr. Madonna Kling, CDP

Agenda:

1. We began and ended with prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary
2. Election of new Council members
Fr. Art asked the council members to extend their term because of the circumstances in the parish. Members to whom it applied agreed. In response to the members request for what they could do, Fr. Art just asked for the presence in the parish and parish activities and prayers.
3. Fr. Art asked for members for input on the parish reaction.
While the listening session was very good and showed a lot of support for Fr. Peter and concern that he be well cared for, the parish understandably has had mixed reactions to the news. We need to pray for the truth as one speaker said at the meeting. The transparency was visible but not necessarily convincing to everyone. There is frustration and a certain amount of distrust of the Church and the process.

It was strongly suggested that we do not go "dark", that regular updates should be given even if the news is basically the same, perhaps every other month in order to maintain the trust and allay suspicions and rumors. This report should go out as many ways as possible—email, bulletin, etc. Marta volunteered to help craft the message.
4. Meetings will resume in the fall as usual. It was felt that a summer check in meeting would be helpful. The next meeting for the council will be July 11, in CR2 for those who are able to make it. Our first meeting in the fall will be September 12. In October we will have our usual get-together of PPC, SAS, And the Finance Committee. Basically there will be big changes in parish schedules and administration for the foreseen future.
5. Safety in the church. In light of recent violence in churches and synagogues, Fr. Art addressed this with regard to our church. Dcn Mike went to an all day workshop put on by our Andover Police. It was suggested that a summary of this presentation be given to the PPC in Sept. and a similar presentation also be given to the hospitality ministers who bear a lot of the responsibility for safety in the church.
6. The parish picnic was discussed, the lack of volunteers and the opportunity we have in this event to rally the parishioners around the parish and make re-inforce that this is their parish. More brainstorming is needed on this and concrete ways the PPC can make this happen
7. Unitas was canceled by Fr. Art for this summer because of all that is going on but other youth activities will take its place and be scheduled by our Youth coordinator, Katie LeBlanc.
8. In June Fr. Art had a vacation scheduled which he will take and friars from St. Mary's may move into the friary and assist until a more permanent solution is implemented. The Council assured Fr. Art of their prayers and of their willingness to help in any way they can. Fr. Art was very appreciative of this and assured them that at the moment he was doing fine.