

St. Mary Parish  
Franklin, MA  
Parish Council Meeting Summary  
Monday, April 4, 2011  
Church Conference Room

**Present:** Father Brian Manning, Father Frank Campo, Pandora Carlucci, Dot Steeves, Karen Ackles, Bob Crowley, Nan Rafter, Frank Fiorillo, Pat Netto, Faith Flaherty, Delores Brunelli, John St. Martin, John Ristaino, Sheila Hooper

1. Pandora welcomed all present.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Father Brian led with the prayer that is used before every session of Vatican II, Book of Blessings #552.
3. **Parish Update:**
  - a. Lent – Father Brian reported that the 7:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. Mass attendance is up and as well as the attendance at the Stations of the Cross on Fridays following the 5:15 Mass. Father Brian noted that the increased attendance at the Stations of the Cross indicated that this change in time was the right decision.
  - b. “Catholics Come Home” ads on TV have resulted in an increase of phone calls seeking marriage blessings, children to be Baptized, registering for Religious Education, and people seeking information about annulment of former marriages.
  - c. Next Sunday Father will be counting the people attending Masses.
  - d. Father Brian met with Karen Ackles to plan for next year’s Religious Education program. Karen reported that the “Constant Contact” communication program helped the communication between the Religious Education program and the parents of children attending the Religious Education classes. More people are giving Religious Education their email address. The secretaries in the office are calling people who don’t have their current email address on file. Father Brian reported that next year, hopefully, there would be online registration for Religious Education.
  - e. First Communions will be April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 7, 2011.
4. **Parish Nurse Update:** Nan Rafter spoke about the presentation that she and Father Brian did in Fall River to about 20 parish nurses. She told them how to work together and said that she has had great support from Father Brian and Father Frank, which makes the ministry a success.

She also reported that she has a student intern who will also stay on as a volunteer in our Parish.

- There will be an anointing Mass at Central Park Terrace on April 9, 2011 with a lunch served afterward.
- On June 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a special Mass for those who have had a stillborn baby.
- Dana Farber in Milford asked Nan for Eucharistic Ministers to serve those having chemotherapy.
- Ashes were distributed to Forge Hill and Franklin Nursing Home residents on Ash Wednesday.

There will be an insert in the bulleting about Nan's ministry.

Pandora asked if the council could help in any way.

5. **Election Committee:** John Ristaino has chaired the committee for elections of the Parish Pastoral Council for the past 2 years. An information paper with a proposed timeline for nominations and elections was passed out.

- April 30/May 1 - Nominations forms are placed in pews at all Masses
- May 18 – Final day to return nomination forms
- May 21 & 22 and May 28 & 29 – Information boards with photograph and biography to be placed in the church.
- June 4 & 5 – Parish Pastoral Council election by members of St. Mary Parish
- June 6 – votes are tallied and candidates are notified of the results
- June 7 – election results are posted on St. Mary Parish website
- June 20 – tentative date for PPC meeting with new members

John R. gave an overview of the process held 2 years ago, as St. Mary Parish pastors changed. He said that Paula, Claire, and Paulette in the rectory provided much help with organizing the nominations sheets. He said there is a lot of labor entailed. All nominees receive a letter to accept or decline.

Father Brian said it is very important that the response to the invitation is received before the deadline. If there is no response, the name is omitted.

John St. Martin said that hopefully younger people will be nominated. John Ristaino said that younger people were nominated last time but did not get elected.

Karen asked if the program "Constant Contact" could send a notification to all parish families.

It was suggested that this year nominations could be made through the Parish website by adding a link to Parish Council. Those present thought this was a good suggestion.

Pandora asked for volunteers for this year's Election Committee. Pandora will chair with Delores Brunelli, Dot Steeves, John Ristaino, and Sheila Hooper.

## 6. **Ministry Updates:**

- Worship Committee – John Ristaino reported that last year there was only one 9:00 a.m. and one 10:30 a.m. Mass, which were quite full. This year there will be Masses upstairs and downstairs at those times.
- Holy Week Services on Thursday, Friday and Saturday will all be at 7:30 p.m. each night, with Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.
- John gave credit to Father Frank for the pink altar flowers last Sunday for which many compliments were received.
- John also said that the new Parish Ministry software is working well as there were 4 more lector volunteers.
  
- St. Vincent de Paul – Dot Steeves reported that there were many more people needing help this past winter.
  
- Frank Fiorillo reported that the snowstorm caused the Friday night program's canceling.

John Ristaino praised Pat Netto and the members of the Bereavement Committee for all the work they do. Father Brian said that they are a critical part of this parish. Pandora said that she knows people who were very appreciative of their work, as this is such a time when they can't always think clearly and therefore, rely on the help of the Bereavement Committee.

Pandora asked if there is a way to educate people on receiving the host and the wine. Father Brian said, "maybe an announcement in the bulletin". John Ristaino asked if there could be a talk to the Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors on what to expect. Father Brian said that if there is a problem, tell them to contact himself or Father Frank.

7. **Closing:** Father Frank closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Hooper