

**St. Mary Parish  
Franklin, Massachusetts  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Minutes for the Monday, February 4, 2013 Meeting  
In The Sacred Heart Conference Room**

Present were: Father Brian F. Manning, Pastor; Father Frank Campo, Parochial Vicar; Father Jack Sullivan; Nancy Rafter, Pastoral Associate and Parish Nurse; Karen Ackles and Jane Malonson, and Council Members, Pandora Carlucci, Chairman; Paul Clary, Francis Fiorillo, Anne King, Joan McGuire, Kathleen McNiece, Rosemary O'Koren, Curtis Patalano, John Ristaino and Dorothy Steeves, and John Sullivan.

After welcoming remarks from the chairman, Father Brian led all in the Opening Prayer.

The chairman invited those present to share good news and special happenings. Congratulations were extended on the good news, and concern and prayers were promised for those with special petitions seeking God's help.

A discussion followed, led by Father Brian, on information included in two letters listed as agenda items. The first letter, dated November 15, 2012, addressed to Father Brian, from the Reverend Paul R. Soper, Director of the Arch Diocese Office of Pastoral Planning, focused on how St. Mary Parish will be impacted by the Pastoral Plan approved by Cardinal Sean O'Malley in November. The Plan is known as "Disciples in Mission."

According to that plan, as previously announced, St. Mary Parish of Franklin has been designated as a "stand-alone" parish. Father Brian, as the letter states, emphasized that even those parishes designated as "stand-alone" parishes, are required to participate in the Pastoral Planning Process, as are those parishes that are to be combined.

The Pastoral Planning Process includes special training, as well as a self-examination process, aimed at making the most of the parish resources and strengthening its programs and services. The examination is aimed at determining what can be done better.

Phase One of the Collaborative Plan focuses on 10 to 15 collaboratives to be named in January. Phases Two and Three will be much larger, and will begin in 2014 and 2016, respectively. Should it be necessary, a Phase Four will be added to begin in 2017 or 2018. The Cardinal will authorize the decisions on which collaboratives will be part of the various phases. However, input is invited and encouraged from collaboratives, indicating when they feel they would be ready to participate in which of the foregoing phases.

The second letter to Father Brian, from the Reverend Robert P. Deeley, Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, details items included in the "Disciples in Mission" Pastoral Plan. Specifically, he noted, "...Assignment of the most suitable pastor is the single-

most important factor, ensuring the success of the collaborative, and the evangelization efforts.”

He added, “...It may be that the best priest for the position may be one of the current pastors, or it may be best that a new pastor would come in from outside of the collaborative.” All pastors involved in formation of a collaborative have been asked to tender their resignations. Each pastor will have the opportunity to apply, o for pastor in the collaborative in which he wishes to serve.

Father Brian announced to the Parish Pastoral Council that he plans to apply for the St. Mary Parish Collaborative. Special training will be required for those named to serve as pastor in the various collaboratives, as well as for those selected to serve on boards and committees. The goal is to have the best possible leadership

Pastoral Parish Council members were asked to review the 11-page “Disciples in Mission” Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan for further study, review and discussion at the March 4 meeting.

Also scheduled for that meeting is action on the Parish Pastoral Council Elections.

Nancy Rafter, Pastoral Associate and parish nurse, presented the following update: Thanks to a generous donation from a parish family, (with the proviso the money will be used “to help people”) Nan is in the process of obtaining a defibulator for the church. Having such a piece of equipment available has proven to be a lifesaver.

According to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan, the role, as well as the number of Pastoral Associates will be expanded. Certification will be required for all such associates. Extensive training will be required. Nan has been named to the Archdiocesan Board that will interview candidates for Pastoral Associates. Those applying must have a Master’s Degree.

Two seminarians have been assigned to the parish. Their term will continue through May. They are focusing on pastoral ministry, and visit here once weekly. One is from the Boston Archdiocese, and the other from Florida.

An area web site is currently in development in Framingham to serve the Health Ministry needs of the area, including Franklin. The services, provided by the area St. Vincent De Paul Society Chapters also will be included on the site.

Several St. Mary Ministries and students in the parish religious education program, sent letters of condolence and support, and prayer offerings to Newtown, Connecticut in response to the recent tragedy there.

Ms. Ackles, in her update of the religious education program, noted that first and second year Confirmation students have the opportunity to earn one hour community service

credits for helping with the parish food pantry. She also discussed safety plans and First Communion details.

Links suggested for review by Frank Fiorillo are:

"Year of Faith:

<http://www.yearoffaithboston.org/cfe/upcoming-sessions-of-catholic-faith-essentials>

Papal Encyclicals and Letters (Documents tab, Catholic News Agency)

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com>

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne King