

St. Mary Parish
Franklin, MA
Parish Council Meeting Summary
Monday, January 31, 2011
Church Conference Room

Present: Father Brian Manning, Father Frank Campo, Karen Ackles, Pandora Carlucci, Frank Fiorillo, Faith Flaherty, Nan Rafter, Pat Netto, John Ristaino, and Dot Steeves.

1. Pandora welcomed those present.

2. **Opening Prayer.** Father Brian led the PPC in the prayer that was used before every session of Vatican II, Book of Blessings #552.

3. **Religious Education.** Karen Ackles provided an update on the Religious Education program.

- There are 2,511 students in grades 1 to 11 participating in religious education
- The new leadership of Jayne Malonson and Karen Ackles is guiding the religious education program through another year.
- There are 116 teachers for grades 1 – 8. Grades 9 – 11 do not use a classroom teacher format.
- Jayne is overseeing grades 7, 8, 9 and 10
- Karen is overseeing grades 1 – 6
- Barbara Brunelli has led the safety program, which has been well-received by students and their families.
 - There is information about safety issues for students, as well as parents.
 - Father Brian indicated that the safety program, under the leadership of Barbara Brunelli, has exceeded the expectations for this year. It has been a highly positive experience. The program has met or exceeded every standard.
- A new pick-up and drop-off traffic pattern has been implemented and is doing well.
- The Religious Education program is using Constant Contact, an email service, to communicate with students and their families. It is working well.

4. Father Brian spoke about a new church that is offering services at the Franklin Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center each Sunday. The church is part of the North American Old Catholic Church. Father distributed some articles that describe this church. (See articles at end of meeting summary.) All faiths are welcome in the town of Franklin but it needs to be clear that this new church is not part of the Roman Catholic Church. Moreover, Father Brian spoke with the Skilled Nursing Home to share his concern that those who are Roman Catholic, and may be confused, be told that the Old Catholic Church is not part of the Roman Catholic Church.

5. **Catholics Come Home.** Father Brian spoke about the new Catholics Come Home initiative. A video was shown at all masses the weekend of January 22/23 that included the

message from Cardinal Seán. The response to this video was highly positive. This is an important growth area for our parish. Father Brian has reached out to Nancy Rappa and Joe DePaola to work with him and Father Frank to lead this initiative at St. Mary Parish. More information about this important effort will follow.

6. Pastoral Associate/Parish Nurse. Father Brian asked Nan Rafter (Pastoral Associate/Parish Nurse; Health and Homebound Ministry Coordinator (and more)) to share with us the work she is undertaking on behalf of St. Mary Parish. Nan began her ministry with St. Mary Parish in 1997. She distributed an organizational chart that depicted the various responsibilities under the umbrella of Pastoral Associate/Parish Nurse, as well a history of this ministry drafted by Bob Short. In this unique role, Nan offers spiritual, physical and emotional support to parish members, as well as non-parish members.

Nan's outreach efforts are visualized through numerous visitations, health education, bereavement, and moreover, through her actions as an advocate for those without a voice. This is a ministry that serves those in need. No one is turned away. Nan also authors a column in the Weave and the Health inserts found in the bulletin.

Over the years, Nan has mentored several nursing students. This year Nan will be mentoring/working with two, second year seminarians, as part of their education. Nan also shared information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry. These shawls are given to parishioners in many circumstances. For example, each participant in the bereavement ministry receives a prayer shawl. Nan also helps to connect those in need with those who have something to share, on a case-by-case basis. St. Mary Parish is blessed by Nan's support of those in need spiritually, physically and emotionally.

7. New Business. Pandora raised the subject of PPC elections and distributed a schedule that identified the members whose terms end this spring: Bob Crowley, Sheila Hooper, Pat Netto and John St. Martin. At the next meeting we will elect 3 members to serve on the election committee and finalize the time line for announcing and seeking nominees, voting, and recognizing the new members. John Ristaino chaired this committee in the past and will be sharing the process he followed with the Council.

At the next meeting the Council will also discuss the policies and procedures that govern solicitation of funds on the church property.

It was asked that the holy water vessel be returned to a place in the church proper where parishioners could more easily access it. Father Brian will have it moved.

Frank Fiorello told the Council about the Worcester Diocesan Catholic Men's conference scheduled for March 26 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

8. Closing. Father Brian closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pandora Carlucci