

**St. Mary Parish  
Franklin, Massachusetts**

Parish Pastoral Council  
February 6, 2012

**Present:** Father Brian Manning, Dot Steeves, Karen Ackles, Nan Rafter, Frank Fiorillo, Faith Flaherty, Delores Brunelli, John Ristaino, Anne King, Curtis Patalano, Rosemary O’Koren, Katie McNeice

**Welcome:** Father Brian welcomed all present.

**Opening Prayer:** Father Brian led with the prayer that is used before every session of Vatican II, Book of Blessings # 552.

**Parish Pastoral Planning: Father Brian Manning**

Father Brian explained that the diocese is divided into five regions. We are number three—west. We are also in a unique position being so close to Rhode Island, the Springfield Diocese, and the Worcester Diocese. St. Mary’s qualifies as a “stand alone parish.

Refer to document: Strengthening Our Parishes as Primary Communities of Faith A Proposal, [www.planning2012.org](http://www.planning2012.org)

At Pastoral Planning meetings some pastors expressed concerns about pastors merging together. New Pastoral Service Teams will be created from merging two or three parishes. This will be a challenge but necessary. This plan will strengthen the team servicing its area. It will also focus attention on our mission of evangelization, faith formation, and leadership.

There will be a Parish Council meeting on March 15, 2012, at St. Edward’s in Medfield, MA to explain further details. Since, St. Mary’s Parish is not involved in merging with other parishes, our purpose in attending will be to learn what is going on with our neighboring parishes. The meeting will also be an opportunity to get ideas for our own needs: faith formation for all ages, evangelization, youth issues, etc.

**Discussion:**

John Ristaino asked for a timetable. Fr Brian said that the process should probably begin in one more year because it will take that long for the final planning processes to take place.

Katie McNeice called attention to what the parish does well: CCD, and the Rock Ministry. Father said that we keep to the core mission and we do very well.

**Updates:**

Nan Rafter said that the seminarians were back to work. They fit in very well and are an asset to the health ministry.

Frank Fiorillo announced a video highlighting the March for Life in Washington, DC, will be shown, February 16, 2012. Frank also talked about getting men to go to the Men's Conference on March 24<sup>th</sup>, in Worcester.

**Closing Prayer:**

Father Brian closed the meeting with prayer, before 8:30 PM.