

**St. Mary Parish
Franklin, Massachusetts
Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes for the Monday, May 14, 2012 Meeting
In The Sacred Heart Conference Room**

Present were: Father Brian F. Manning, Pastor; Nancy Rafter, Pastoral Associate, Parish Nurse and Health and Homebound Associate; Karen Ackles and Jayne Malonson, Religious Education directors; and Council Members, Pandora Carlucci, Chairman; Karen Ackles, Paul Clary, Francis Fiorillo, Faith Flaherty, Anne King, Joan McGuire, Kathleen McNiece, Rosemary O'Koren, Curtis Patalano, and Dorothy Steeves.

The chairman greeted the council and invited those present to share good news and/or concerns. The news was good, and no concerns were voiced.

Father Brian then led the membership in the Opening Prayer. The chairman asked Father Brian to present an update on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Planning Commission. relative to Parish Pastoral Planning and. Parish Collaboratives.

Father Brian noted St. Mary Parish, Franklin, is one of seven parishes in the Boston Archdiocese that has been designated as a stand-alone parish. The final plan for what a stand-alone parish will do is not yet completed. For now, the goal is for each stand-alone and each collaborative parish to do a self-study. Father Brian explained that the self-study involves using specific goals, to determine how to strengthen and improve each parish.

An Archdiocesan clergy meeting is set for the second week in June. Timing for adopting an Archdiocesan Plan is hard to predict, Father Brian said, it would take months for the Archdiocesan Plan to be ready, considering the onset of vacations, waiting for those parishes that will be part of collaboratives to complete a self-study, and the Archdioceses to review studies and create a plan. He added, that, until an archdiocesan plan is established, St. Mary Parish will continue its self-study, and move forward, according to its plan, to strengthen the parish in line with future expectations.

Father Brian reported that Father Frank Campo's stay at St. Mary's, due to end this year, has been extended for one more year.

Following Father Brian's update, the chairman asked the Parish Pastoral Council members to discuss ways to strengthen our parish, focusing on improving, or expanding ways to make St Mary Parish "...an even more welcoming, nurturing, thriving and evangelistic Community of Faith."

During the discussion, the possibility was noted that, under unplanned circumstances (sickness, accident etc.) only one priest will be present at St. Mary's Parish. It is also a

certainty, that to save money, every effort will be made to share services with surrounding parishes, and avoid duplication of services, whenever possible.

Among things that council members said make St. Mary a welcoming parish were listed, including: The bulletin, the web site, "The Weave," the parish quarterly newspaper; handicap accessibility, the Prayer Wall, worshippers' participation in bringing up the gifts, music, the priests' visits whenever possible, the priests greeting parishioners after Masses. and the opportunity to join the various parish ministries. Newspaper articles on church activities also attract those parishioners thinking about returning to church. The RCIA Program was hailed as a plus in evangelization. The 5 p.m. Sunday Mass also has proven popular, especially in attracting teens. The CCD (Confraternity of Christian doctrine) reaches many people. Another popular addition is the Children's Mass, during which separate homilies are delivered for children and adults.

With one priest at the helm, it was noted during the discussion, that priorities must be set in order to avoid over-extending the expectations of the duties of the priest(s) in addition to the many rites and services performed. A Deacon assigned to the parish could be helpful, Father Brian said.

Next on the agenda was an update by Nan Rafter, who spoke of the good work accomplished by Jeffrey Archer and Mark Storey, St. John XXIII seminarians, during their stay in the parish. They also co-authored a story in "The Weave's" latest edition, entitled "What We Learned From the Parishoners."

Mrs. Rafter also reported on programs and activities held, under the direction of her ministries since the council's last meeting, and upcoming sessions in June. Included were Anointing Masses at Central Park Terrace, Bereavement Support Group, the Cap Team and "Tasking Care of Our Children" sessions,

After discussion, it was voted to recommend to cease the Sunday noon Mass from July 1 until after Labor Day (resuming September 9). Father Brian detailed the pronounced drop in attendance at that Mass during the summer months.

The chairman distributed calendars for the 2012-2013 council term. After review, dates set for meetings were: October 1, November 5, February 4, March 4, and May 6.

With no further business to come before the council, Father Brian led members in the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne M. King