

St. Mary Parish
Franklin, MA
Meeting Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council
September 30, 2013
Sacred Heart Conference Room

In attendance: Rev. Brian Manning, Rev. Jack Sullivan, Rev. Anthony Le, Karen Ackles, Pandora Carlucci, Paul Clary, Cheryl Crowley, Frank Fiorillo, Tim Hurdlebrink, Terry Kerr, Joan McGuire, Katie MacNeice, Rosemary O'Koren, Lisa Oxford, Curt Patalano, and Nan Rafter.

Each member of the council introduced him/herself.

Pandora asked that each member e-mail her to let her know which ministries they are involved in. This will help determine our representation from the various parish ministries.

We joined in our opening prayer led by Father Brian.

Overarching vision for the coming year

Father Brian spoke of our overarching vision, noting that Sister Dorothea had come to St. Mary's (I am not sure when) to help the parish develop a vision.

He began by describing the role of the PPC – to be reflective, thoughtful and prayerful in carrying out the vision, and of course to understand the vision. We also must be aware and mindful that we are part of the Archdiocese of Boston. Father Brian spoke of Pope Francis' reference to God's mercy. The Pope asks us to re-see/ask ourselves as to who we are as disciples.

Father Brian discussed the vision that our parish developed under Sister Dorothea's guidance. This vision includes being aware of some very important realities, which has led us to a tremendous commitment to the struggling and the poor. St Mary Parish had established a strong foundation, caring for these people as follows:

- The Bereavement Committee cares for the fragile and brokenhearted;
- Nan Rafter, Pastoral Associate and Parish Nurse, cares for the sick;
- St. Vincent DePaul cares for the poor.

It is important that we look at what we have to offer others.

This year our focus will be on developing and understanding leadership.

Father Brian discussed a letter from the Director of Pastoral Collaboratives in the Archdiocese of Boston, asking that parish pastoral councils develop an understanding of the collaborative. Phase 1 began in June. Twelve collaboratives, consisting of approximately twenty parishes, have been established. As of now it has been determined that St. Mary will remain a stand-alone parish. Phase 2 will begin in June of 2014. The names of 46 parishes, which will form approximately 20-22 collaboratives, have been released. This allows time for parishioners to be informed as well as to assign pastors and parochial vicars to each collaborative. The question will arise in 1-2 years as to whether St. Mary Parish should collaborate at that time. It was initially thought that

the process would take 3-4 years, however it has been determined that it will take approximately seven years. This coming year we are being asked to grow in understanding of how the church envisions parishes as collaboratives.

Because our role as council members requires us to be informed, each member will invest a reasonable amount of time in becoming informed. We have been asked to read the book *Rebuilt* by Father Michael White and Tom Corchoran, associate to the pastor. Father Brian will provide each of us with a copy, and Pandora will provide us with 3-4 questions to reflect upon as we read. We will discuss the book in January. Father recommended two other books as well: *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* and *Forming Intentional Disciples*.

Another focus goal for the year is to enrich Sunday masses.

We want to encourage more parishioners to join ministries within the parish. We hope to make mass a truly spiritual/religious experience and offer hope, mercy and comfort in order for people to find whatever they seek or need when coming to mass. Father Brian explained how, when standing outside the church after mass, he “reads” people to try and determine how they are feeling and what they may need.

Next, we heard from each representative for parish ministries.

Health Ministry:

Nan reported that she has a seminarian, George Rokar, who is interning with her to learn about pastoral ministries. On 11/4 there will be a presentation on Palliative care and Hospice care from Community VNA.

Bereavement Committee:

Joan reported that a 7-week program will begin on 10/31. The Mass of Remembrance will be held at 11:00AM on 11/4.

Joan also requested prayers for a parishioner who will undergo brain surgery on Friday, 10/4.

Religious Education:

Karen reported that all classes have begun with 2400 students registered. First grade (still taught in the home) has 150 children registered. The First Communion class is at 205. They have held their first teachers' meeting. There is a focus on communication.

Music Ministry:

Terry is recruiting cantors as well as members for the adult and children's choirs. (It was noted by council members that the music is exhilarating.)

Worship Committee:

Katie reported that the committee would meet in October.

The meeting concluded with a closing prayer led by Father Jack.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Oxford.