

## **St. Mary Pastoral Council April, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** April 9, 2014  
**Time:** 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
**Place:** Large Meeting Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### **Meeting Invitees**

Pastoral Council members, Msgr. Michael Rose, Fr. Marcin Nowicki, Darius Corcoran  
Per Article VI of the Pastoral Council Bylaws: *All meetings of the Pastoral Council are open to all parishioners and members of the parish staff.*

### **Meeting Attendees**

**Pastoral Council:** Bob Doiron, Jim Farrell, Jim Heald, Mike Nelson, Ellen O'Connor, Tim Rivard, Bob Terry, Susan Zybert

**Parish Staff:** Msgr. Michael Rose, Fr. Marcin Nowicki

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Jim Heald, Chair of the Pastoral Council. The Council opened the meeting with a prayer offered by Bob Doiron. The February 2014 Meeting Minutes were read. Minor revisions were noted and accepted.

### **Council Check-in**

- Bob Doiron suggested that the Council and Pastor should provide some clarity & urgency around the retirement of the \$1M+ debt associated with the church renovation/expansion project.
- Fr. Mike noted that the Finance Committee is developing a plan to modify the outstanding Diocesan loan by converting it to a long term debt obligation (mortgage or similar).
- Tim Rivard suggested modifying the periodic Parish Pay reminders to spur on additional payments for the purpose of paying down the construction loan.
- Bob Doiron offered to spearhead a sports ticket raffle as a way to raise money to help retire the loan.

### **Pastor's Update**

Fr. Mike provided updates on "Rediscover Catholicism" book distribution / Adult Education program

- Approximately 750 copies ordered and distributed so far.
- Several unsolicited positive comments received by Fr. Mike
- Discussion about the pros/cons of ordering more books and distributing them; we concluded that a continuation of this program at this time might diminish the impact of what has been done already. We discussed ordering one or more of Matthew Kelly's other titles for a future distribution, but no decision was made.
- Fr. Mike also noted that Tom Estaphan would like to see some sort of survey or feedback request included in the Bulletin. The Council generally thought this was a good idea, but no immediate action was assigned. We also discussed the idea of creating a forum for parishioners to get together to discuss the book(s), possibly a book club.

## Other Business

- Lenten Mission – Jim Farrell called attention to the excellent Taize (tah-ZAY) prayer service that Fr. Mike offered on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Jim asked if this could be offered more regularly, and Fr. Mike mentioned that this is being discussed among the 3 parishes.
- Church Sign Project – Jim Heald noted that the project is a work in progress and that no concrete plan or proposal has yet been developed. The topic was tabled until our next meeting.
- Welcome Table – Seeking volunteers to cover the monthly welcome table. Tim Rivard and Ellen O’Connor fell on their swords for not having tended to the table last month! Volunteers continue to be sought for this duty.
- Capital Campaign – The Finance Committee will draft a report updating the status of the Campaign and making recommendations.
- Barrier for side parking lot – after at least 2 separate incidents where cars have jumped the curb and hit one of the side entrances to the Church, Susan Zybert asked if some sort of fix was going to be devised. Fr. Mike responded that an appropriate solution is being developed now.
- Lighting & Sound – Darius Corcoran presented the considerable work he’s done to investigate improvements to the Church lighting and sound systems.
  - Most of his presentation described the need for improved lighting, and a variety of options he has been presented by a firm called Artech Church, which specializes in these solutions.
  - Darius shared some cost estimates and noted that this is a project that could be undertaken in the future and that there is no risk of failure, i.e., the current lighting fixtures provide inadequate light but are safe and sound.
  - Darius gave Fr. Mike a copy of the printed materials that Artech had provided.
  - Fr. Mike asked Darius to arrange a visit to a church in the area that has tackled a similar lighting renovation project; Darius agreed to do this, noting that he has spoken with people at a church in Lowell already.
  - The Council thanked Darius for his investigation and thorough presentation.
- Fish Fry update – Bob Terry recapped the popular Fish Fry that took place on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 500 parishioners and friends attended, and 40+ volunteers worked on the setup, cooking, serving and clean-up. The event, though not a fundraiser, netted approx. \$1000. Notable guests included Bishop McManus and Karen Polito (newly-announced candidate for Lt. Governor of Mass) and Fr. Marcin (!)
- Status of Partners in Charity Appeal – Fr. Mike reported that the Parish is now at a level of \$135,000 in pledged amounts, with a total goal of \$190,000. He noted that about \$99K has been pledged directly to the Diocese due to their direct outreach to repeat donors. Fr. Mike also mentioned that he and the Diocese are seeking fresh ideas to try to gain new donors, especially among younger Parishioners. A few ideas were offered, including Tim Rivard’s general guidance that social media needs to be utilized in order to appeal to younger people. Mike

Nelson offered that outreach messages should probably focus on uses of funds that are likely to garner support, i.e., more emphasis on programs to help the poor and disadvantaged and less on administrative cost support, etc.

- Parish Day of Service on Saturday, April 26 – Fr. Mike will send an email out to last year's organizers, project captains and volunteers this week asking for sign-ups and help recruiting others. There are more than 20 projects again this year and staffing of 300+ would be ideal.
- Over the next few weeks, the newly-elected and reelected Council members will recruit new Council members. There will be four (4) open spots on the Council that will need to be filled. We'll hold officer elections at the next Council meeting in June.
- The final meeting for the current Pastoral Council term will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014.