

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

**Date:** December 10, 2014  
**Time:** 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
**Place:** Jim Heald's home @ Sumner House

### **Meeting Invitees**

Pastoral Council members, Msgr. Michael Rose, Fr. Marcin Nowicki, Parish Ministry leaders  
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:** Susan Zybert, Bob Terry, Sheila Seed, Ellen O'Connor, Mike Nelson, Jim Heald, Jim Farrell, Bob Doiron, Kurt Brenner, Marilyn Blanchard

**Ministries:** Maria Lemieux (Finance Ministry), Gina Kuruvila (Social Justice), Evelyn Barone (Jet Set), Joan Barry (Parish School), Rick Vacca (Liturgy/Music), Kelly Paulina (Stewardship)

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

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Jim Heald, who decorated the venue (his home) greeted the guests, hosted the meeting, served the refreshments and offered the opening prayer. The only things Jim didn't do during the meeting were 1) record the minutes and 2) warm our cars for the ride home.

The November, 2014 Meeting Minutes were read and accepted.

### **Pastor's Update**

Parish sign project -

- Fr. Mike confirmed that sign costs are \$200 apiece; it was previously reported that replacement signs cost \$100, but each sign comprises two panels @ \$100 each.
- Signs may be modified (days & dates, etc.) for reduced cost e.g., for annual events.
- Lead times on new signs will be approximately one month; this will be communicated to leaders of Lenten Fish Fry, Family Festival, etc.

Cultural Diversity initiative –

Fr. Mike had a lot to report in this area and prepared a separate document as a handout. Key elements included learnings from the 11/19 and 11/23 events. Those notes are attached at the end of these Minutes.

### **Ministry Reports**

Joan Barry (Parish School) reported that St. Mary School enrollment has been solid; a new Admissions Director has helped...the Christmas Pageant was well done...short videos on the School/Parish website have proven an effective recruitment tool...parent referrals continue to be vital..."Wednesday envelopes" are no more – all digital communications with parents.

Gina Kuruvila (Social Justice) noted that SJ ministry work begins just after Christmas. Interfaith group provides help for the homeless...new home on June Street...the 2-story home typically houses 18-25 people from 4-6 families...St. Mary's will provide volunteers to cover a 2-week period in two evening & overnight shifts...volunteers being sought now...In addition, Cecile and Jerry Cote continue their excellent work leading St. Mary's effort in providing materials and services to refugee families...eighty-eight families have now been placed in/around Worcester...Dismas House activities going well, too.

Gina also represented the Religious Education Ministry...she reported that Religious Ed is alive & well...some showing up for weekly Mass, but would like to see better attendance overall...summer service trips seem to energize the kids, as do the Confirmation retreats in Charlton.

Evelyn Baroni (Jet Set Ministry) reported on 2 trips: NY Yankees game at Yankee Stadium and a combined Saratoga + West Point trip. Fr. Marcin spoke of an upcoming trip to Toronto – the “Sin & Redemption” trip?

Rick Vacca covered the Liturgical Ministry, which includes training altar servers, lectors and musicians...Choir loft is full...parishioners picked up the slack after Paul Gannon departed for Seattle. Rick Z. adjusted quickly to new players and new instruments...children's choir event at Mechanics Hall was mentioned.

Kelly Paulina reviewed the Stewardship Ministry...praised the work of parishioners who helped highlight the various ministries with a November renewal mass that featured 8 ministries with displays in the 8 windows along the sides of the church. Kelly thanked Maria Lemieux for her presentations on Treasure (finance report)...Day of Service planned for April 25<sup>th</sup> ...expecting 300+ volunteers again...mentioned trying to arrange a real build project as part of the Habitat for Humanity effort...1/7 planning effort for Day of Service, then 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of each month...discussion about the LOFT newsletter and about St. Mary use of Flocknote for parish communications...seems to be a powerful tool specifically designed to improve ad hoc group communications, being used by Diocese of New York City...parishes pay \$40/month to grant access to up to 600 families.

Maria Lemieux (Finance Ministry) described the introduction of new/improved processes for record-keeping set up by the Diocese for better oversight & governance...also led a short discussion regarding the use of ParishPay to increase receipts/income.

Kurt Brenner (Respect Life Ministry) recapped the recent bottle drive for Visitation House, Parish Essay contest...St. Mary's parishioners will join St. Bernadette's and Worcester parishes for trip to Washington, DC for the annual March for Life rally on Thursday, January 22.

### **Welcome Table Assignments**

January : Brenner & Nelson

February: Farrell & Kelly P.

### **Meeting Calendar**

- The next meeting of the Pastoral Council term will be held on February 11, 2015.
- On the fiscal 2015 calendar, Pastoral Council meetings will be held on:
  - September 10, 2014
  - October 8, 2014

- November 12, 2014
- December 10, 2014 (Parish Ministry leaders invited)
- February 11, 2015
- April 8, 2015
- June 10, 2015

Our meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm by Jim H. after a motion by Jim F. and a second by Kurt B.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETINGS  
ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY AT ST. MARY'S PARISH**

**Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Susan Zybert & Tim Rivard**

Rosemary & Jose from Mexico

Gisha from India

Discussion

- Orderly procession to communion
- Everyone goes to communion. In Mexico no communion w/o confession
- More people go to daily Mass in Mexico
- Welcoming spirit at St. Mary's (was not the case in a previous parish) and family and visitors note this
- Small prayer groups in home are popular in India. Some also attend Syro Malabar church in Framingham

Suggestions

- In Easter season announce in bulletin that priests will come and place people's homes (Indian custom)
- Feast of OL of Guadalupe on December 12. Educational info in bulletin with link to a video of the shrine. Image of OL Guadalupe in church on Dec 13/14
- Bulletin: once a month highlight a saint, custom, tradition from another country
- MFR. On Feast of Epiphany put Mangers from Around the World on the 8 window sills

**Sunday, November 23**

**Bob Doiron & Sheila Seed**

Kim from Viet Nam

Ile and Marilyn from the Philippines

Discussion

- Christian Life Communities for Viet Nam. Kim has brought youth ministry and Religious Ed texts to Vietnamese community
- Small groups in Philippines
- Felt welcomed at St. Mary's Parish is well organized, well education, the way St. Mary's gives generously....want to be a part of these efforts.

Suggestions

- A Marian Day with speakers and devotions in May (VietNam)
- May Procession (Philippines)
- Use of diverse liturgical music. Hymns from different countries. Ricky Manalo is Filipino and in OCP
- Philippines. Christmas Traditions. 9 Days before Christmas. Mass of the Rooster at 4am. Share traditions
- International Night with Food.