

Pastoral Council Meeting—April 14, 2016

End of Year Reflections

2015-2016 Initiatives:

- “Kid’s Church” has grown. Twenty children were in attendance on Palm Sunday and we are looking to start “Toddler Time with Jesus” as a spin-off for the younger kids.
- Justine, together with Fr. Tom, has started a Thursday evening Young Adult Group that is growing greatly in numbers.
- A November meeting of ushers/greeters/EM’s featured Richard Gregory from Granite United, who witnessed how his life was drastically changed through his encounter with a welcoming church community. Richard inspired all those present through his zeal for welcoming new people to his church, knowing they could be in dire need of “new life”.
- Ministers wearing badges at mass makes us aware of how many people in the parish are giving generously of their time in service to God. This is very welcoming to newcomers.
- The 5 p.m. mass attendance has doubled over the past year and continues to grow.
- We all feel more settled regarding the future of the parish, since the bishop’s decision to keep open both our churches. He feels strongly that we are going in the right direction.
- Technology advances include: updated website, social media accounts for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; Projector Screen at MQP; Live Streaming of mass celebrations.
- The staff and Pastoral Council joyfully served together at Cor Unum in Lawrence
- Children's Liturgy of the Word is now offered throughout the year at both churches
- Almost 70 new church members have been registered online in the past 9 months, and many new families are registering for our expanded Family Faith Formation program
- Our homilists are successfully connecting the Scripture readings with issues that are of current concern to church members.
- The weekly bulletin reflections, written by various staff members, are diverse and inspiring.
- Kyle's addition of a contemporary Eucharistic Adoration (Sing and Shout).
- Fr. Al has been a valuable addition to the staff since replacing the injured Fr. Donal.
- An estimable number of people from both churches came together for the All Souls Day and Thanksgiving Day Masses, and for the Christmas and Easter Holy Week services.

Future Initiatives:

- Continue to develop the "Welcome Ministry" at our masses. At the Ushers/Greeters/Coordinators/EM’s workshop (see above), Richard Gregory described Granite United’s circles of greeters, extending from parking lot all the way to the pews.
- Bring the "Work Camp" service mission to our local area. Establish a program to provide youth service opportunities to restore and repair homes and hearts, to lift the spirits and bring joy to the many children, elderly, and disabled in our own community.
- Recruit volunteers for parish ministries, including those of altar servers, lectors, greeters, and facility support.