

## Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes September 10th, 2015

**Call to Order**-7:15 PM, SHARP! Started at 7:17 PM. Absent were: Chris and Shawn. Guests: Sue L. and Justine D.

**Opening prayer**—Fr. Tom

### **Meeting Format Change:**

Old Business: There is a change in the agenda format. Old business will now be addressed by a parish volunteer or staff person via email, text, or phone. A hard-copy listing of “old business” items will be distributed at each monthly meeting, beginning this month. For new agenda items, ideas should be emailed to Chairperson for consideration next month.

Non-Agenda: Pastoral Council Service Project is Cor Unum in Lawrence, MA

[www.corunummealcenter.org/](http://www.corunummealcenter.org/) We will be given three possible dates. Those who are available to participate will be asked to provide their preference.

**Action:** Therese will speak to her sister who works at Cor Unum to get the three earliest dates that need volunteers.

### **New Business:**

MQP 9:30 and 11:00 AM mass times: Parishioners are enjoying the “community” time after the 9:30 mass and the before 11:00. Folks are gathering in the lobby area and indulging in friendly conversation as well as coffee and donuts. This has created some overlap with the incoming/outgoing crowd.

**Action:** The Pastoral Council has recommended to the pastor that beginning Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> (All Saints Day), the 11:00 AM at MQP be moved to 11:30 AM. Parishioners are invited to share any concerns and ideas with the staff or the PC members. The council will readdress at the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, and a definitive decision will be made at that time. Appropriate announcements and media updates will immediately follow.

Homilies and politics-an open discussion. Some folks are interpreting the homilies differently. Susan suggested we engage a conversation with anyone that comes to us with issues, and offer to forward any concerns to the clergy. Deacon Jay recommended that any homily content that may be considered as political commentary should be directly referenced via the Holy Bible, or Pope Francis’ “The Joy of the Gospel”, or his recent encyclical. We would like to cultivate a parish community where people of good will can listen to one another regarding matters of social concern, and can feel free to enter into meaningful dialogue and sincere communication with one another.

New Small Groups to study Pope Francis' The Joy of the Gospel. The council would like to encourage the creation of new small groups.

**Action:** An informational study guide will be on the website for our parishioners. Announcements will be made at the masses as well as information in the bulletin.

Pastoral Council is to serve as the eyes and ears of the parish community.

**Action:** Let's start a dialog with our parishioners. PC members are encouraged to be very visible and to try to greet before and after masses. We should be acting as the tentacles of the parish, reaching out to touch all those who need to be seen and heard.

Closing Prayer—Fr. Bill