

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm
2. Opening prayer – Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35
3. Pastor's report
 - a. The plowing collection - \$ 8397. Parish deficit is \$24,500 as of 3/29. Last year it was \$54,538. Improvement is noted, however, the impact of severe winter weather this year was acknowledged as a factor in the current deficit.
 - b. The Honduras Mission continues to be supported by the Parish, however we are no longer collecting empty soda bottles. A meeting will be held with Honduras team parish members, Mary Roy, the Mexican Mission team, and the Youth Summer program team to discuss next steps to ensure financial support for these important programs.
 - c. Repairs/replacement at MQP for damage incurred is in process. Stained glass replacement will take longer. Insurance should cover all but \$5,000.00 of the costs of these repairs/replacements.
 - d. Roof repairs and repairs to the outside walls of the sacristy at St. Joe's are under consideration. There is a possibility of receiving a grant from the Methuen Christmas Tree Festival fund, as there are dollars available through this entity to restore historic places. We would have to match the funds, however.
 - e. Sump pumps have been replaced in the rectory. Installation of LED lighting is being explored for both church sites.
 - f. The Parish has been named in two wills
4. Old Business
 - a. Long Range planning – several members of the Long Range planning committee have agreed to continue to meet to

discuss/plan next steps in implementing the “two site plan” as well as the timeline for doing so, following the decision to retain both church sites. Items for discussion include parking lot at MQP; ADA restroom construction/Family Room and St. Julie Hall rejuvenation at St. Joe’s, and issues identified in the Turner report. The sisters will be leaving the yellow house on 6/30/15. Consideration may be given for its use as a homeless shelter or for renting to an entity such as Catholic Charities. Frs. John and Tom will schedule a Long Range Planning Committee meeting within the next month.

- b. Ministry weekend - meeting will be held on Sunday, 4/12. There is a concern that the 40+ people who volunteered last year were not contacted as requested. Judi will bring the concern to the meeting on Sunday to ensure it had happened.
- c. On line donations – all agree promotion of this opportunity needs to be increased, especially with new registrations by younger people. Chris Raymond will be the Pastoral Council representative to the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for 4/30/15 to bring this issue forward.
- d. Pope Francis in Philadelphia – there is interest in a day trip to Philly. Chartering a bus will be discussed at the next PC meeting on 5/14/15.
- e. Gluten-free hosts – there have been two inquiries thus far. It is on the website, in the bulletin, and included in the announcements

5. New Business

- a. Qualities for new Pastoral Council candidates include being accessible, engaged, visible, committed to God, and available to fully participate in the PC retreat scheduled for Sept 18th and 19th.

- i. Discernment meetings 5/7/15: Fr. John will open with prayer; Joe Balzano will speak to his experience as a member of the council with Steve Barretto; Christi Dignam will present a summary of our accomplishments over the past year.
- b. Subcommittee follow ups:
 - i. Welcoming Parish Community – Chris reporting
 1. 5pm Mass on Palm Sunday – Chris and family were greeting. Many attendees were unaware there is a 5pm Mass each week.
 2. Other PC members who attended as greeters on both Palm Sunday and Easter agreed many positive comments were received relative to the welcoming greeting. Regular ushers/greeters at some masses were surprised to see additional persons performing this role.
 3. It was proposed to schedule a meeting with the subcommittee, the priests, and existing ushers/greeters to assess the need for additional assistance. We value their time and talents in this endeavor, and want the group to know that.
 - ii. Faith Experience – Youth, Young adults, Young families – Christi reporting
 1. Ten members of the youth group were interviewed prior to the Passion Play on Palm Sunday. Thoughts were shared on the following subjects: Mass, Homilies, and Music. Ideas were discussed and follow up action items were identified.
 2. Meeting with Kyle to discuss his music ministry at the 5pm Mass and his needs going forward. Sing and Shout program will be held the first Sunday of each month at 6:30, St. Joe's, and include

music, speaker, meditative music, Eucharistic adoration, and praise music.

3. Christi and Joe will be assembling a team to coordinate the 5pm Mass. A mix of adults, young adults, and youth will minister at first, hoping to move toward a combination of youth (teens) and young adults as ministers. Pastoral Council members are encouraged to assist initially with ministries at this Mass, if possible. We welcome all to celebrate this style of Mass.
 - iii. Mass celebrations – Steve attended the 4:15 Mass @ St. Joe’s and sent his observations to Fr. Tom. Steve encouraged others to attend Masses they do not usually attend to make objective observations.
 - iv. Meeting with Fr. Ed Quinnan, Northeast Jesuit Province Pastoral Assistant – Fr. Ed was a great listener, had great questions, and took copious notes. Positive parish attributes as well as opportunities for improvement were shared in an honest manner. Fr. Ed attended two liturgies: 4:15pm and the 9:30am.
6. Other business
- a. Preparation for Council election for new members (3) - it was suggested the Pastoral Council members give the “election” announcement at mass the weekend of the 19th. Judi will email group to request.
7. Closing prayer – Fr. Tom

Next Pastoral Council Meeting
DISCERNMENT: Thursday, May 7, 2015
7:15pm at MQP