

Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes  
August 10, 2017

**Council Members Present:** Fr. Tom, Fr. Bill, Steve Barretto, Deb Carney, Daniela Gomez, Kristen Klecan, Jess Miller, Dawn Pavlini, Lisa Ricci  
**Council Members Not Present:** Fr. Al, Deacon Jay Cormier, Tina Doherty, Chris Raymond, Debbie Sarnie, Therese Vallario  
**Guests:** Fr. John, Deacon David Costello

**Call to Order:** 7:15PM

**Opening Prayer:** Deacon David

**Father Tom's Pastor Report:**

**Father John Visit:** Fr. John attended the beginning portion of the Pastoral Council meeting. He was visiting the Parish as part of his vacation. On Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, he visited the MQP campus before the 9:30am Mass, as well as con-celebrating and presiding at a Baptism at the 11:00am mass at the St. Joseph campus.

**Deficit Reduction:** The Parish concluded the fiscal year with a deficit. A special collection was held the last two Sundays in June, with the proceeds going directly towards the debt reduction. Approximately \$8,000 was collected. In addition, the parish applied-for and was awarded a \$45,000 Parish-to-Parish Grant in order to eliminate the debt. The budget is now balanced for the new year.

**Yellow House:** The asking price has been reduced, and an offer was made but was deemed too low. We are awaiting another offer. When sold, the proceeds of the sale would be used for capital improvements to St. Joseph, and for paying off our loan to the diocese for the MQP parking lot replacement.

**Family Play Group:** Beginning on September 20<sup>th</sup>, in the Emmaus Room at the MQP campus. Families will assist in facilitating.

**Take Them A Meal:** This initiative is going well, however, extremely healthy portions of food have been provided. A request to keep the portions smaller was suggested.

**St. Joe's 6:30 Mass:** This time change from 5:00 to 6:30 is permanent. More convenient during the summer months, people are able to enjoy family events earlier in the day and then attend Mass. This time also works well with the Family Faith Formation classes that will begin in September.

**New Focus Facilitators:** Daniela and Richard Gomez. They will meet with couples as part of the process for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

**Old Business Updates:**

**Welcome Kits:** (Jess Miller & Kristen Klecan) The "Welcome Bags" will contain a Welcome Prayer and a Rosary. Multiple bags will be arranged in baskets. Each campus will receive a basket along with a "Welcome" sign and explanation to be placed on or near the basket. These will be located in the Vestibule of each church as a token of congeniality for those who may be visiting our Parish. In the future, the making of the bags could become a ministry for those who are home bound. This was put forth to the council for a vote and unanimously approved to move forward.

**Coffee/Donuts/Ice Cream at St. Joe's 11:00 AM Mass:** (Kristen Klecan) The attendance at this fellowship activity is growing. An average of 15-20 people attend after mass. Ice cream is also being offered in the summer. People are returning to this celebration at St. Joe's, as they find it to be very welcoming and communal in nature.

**St. Joe's 6:30 Mass:** (Daniela) Although this Mass was originally planned in an effort to appeal-to and increase the attendance of youth/young adults, many different age groups are attending. We see different

people every week, and attendance continues to grow.

**LED Lights at MQP, and Projector at St. Joe's:** Currently the (30) 300W incandescent bulbs consume a total of 9000W of electricity. A sample LED bulb (50W, 1500W total) was tested but rejected because an internal fan may have caused excessive background noise. A new 40W LED bulb without a fan will be tested soon. The projector at St. Joe's has been mounted. An electrician will soon bring power (gratis!) so we hope it will be up and running soon for the 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM celebrations.

**Children's Giving Program:** Children and Teens will have their own envelopes for the collection. Proofs have been approved for both kid and teen versions. A monetary donation is not necessary, as a prayer/thought may also be placed inside. This will start approximately in mid-September.

**Big Church Day Out:** Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00pm at the Field of Dreams in Salem, NH (Bishop McCormack will be presiding at the 4:15 Mass at St. Joe's in order for Fr. Tom to attend the event)

### New Business:

**Jesus Matters!** (Deacon David) In the past year we have attempted Street Evangelization (St. Paul's). This effort was not effective, as businesses would not allow access in front of their stores. A decision was made to use one of the best communications network, The Internet (Facebook). A "Jesus Matters" forum was established where people could share: "Why Jesus Matters in their lives". Parishioners were encouraged to post their testimonials on the "Jesus Matters" Facebook forum. As a result, there are currently 187 members in this forum. 40 testimonials have been posted, several of which have come from outside of our parish. This has also opened up communication on this topic across the country. Inserts were placed in the bulletin to encourage parishioner responses, but none were received. Now, postcards have been created and will be placed at the entry of both campuses. Parishioners, including children, can write why Jesus matters in their lives and they can place the cards in the collection basket. These testimonials can be printed in a separate section of the bulletin and posted on our website and on Facebook. Fr. Tom exhorted: "In your conversations with others, be aware of any inspiring words that might be spoken, and encourage that person to submit them as a witness to how "Jesus Matters!" Letters were sent out to 12 Christian Churches asking them to consider working with us. 4 have responded thus far. Two website domains have been reserved: Jesusmattersnh.org and Jesusmattersnh.com. A "Jesus Matters!" sign was presented for discussion of the design. The council members were asked to contact Deacon David on a design selection. Deacon David will be speaking at the September Clergy meeting to present this sign/design for discussion. Short term goals for this initiative include: contacting 1 or 2 persons per church to invite the members of their respective congregations to post their testimony or share with others. Getting church members to post the "Jesus Matters!" signs in their front yards. Print decals for rear car windows. Print testimony on small cards for distribution through the food pantry. Have large white boards with markers at the Big Church Day Out for those in attendance to write their responses. Long term goals include the production of personal testimony videos for posting on our website, Facebook and YouTube, printing of small booklet with printed testimony for handout. Distribute them through the Catholic School System. The composition of the "Jesus Matters!" sign was discussed.

**PC Badge Design:** (Jess) In order for people to better identify specific parish ministers, a color change for badges was recommended and approved. This will enable people to approach the appropriate person with their questions and concerns. Red for Pastoral Council Members; White for Staff; Blue for all other Ministers of Hospitality. Steve to make all changes and distribute accordingly.

**Building A Community:** Currently a monthly Pot Luck Supper takes place on Wednesday at St. Joe's. There are about 8-10 people in attendance. People then attend the 6:30 mass afterwards. Attendees of the 4:00pm mass at MQP are interested in having a similar event. This item will be revisited at next month's Pastoral Council meeting. Perhaps additional community-building social events can be added.

**Parish Finances:** (Lisa) Spearheaded by Sue L, the Hall at MQP has been rejuvenated. New, high noise-reduction ceiling tiles have also been donated and will be installed in Sept. Possibilities of renting this

space out for specific celebrations (Rehearsal Dinner, Baptism Celebration, Showers, Graduation Party, Birthday Party...). The rental monies would go directly to the parish. St. Julie Hall has had the rugs cleaned, a new kitchen floor will be installed, and 68 new LED light bulbs have been donated by the Salem Farmers Market. A “*Did You Know?*” section could be placed in the bulletin and website to make people aware of these two facilities to accommodate their need for a gathering space for special events.

**New Subcommittee: Embracing Hope (Ministry Collaboration):** (Deb Carney and Dawn Pavlini) The premise of this subcommittee is to enhance the Abba's Hands Prayer Ministry and the Kid's Church Ministry through the collaborative efforts of the ministry coordinators Deb Carney and Dawn Pavlini. The presentation included the topics of: Collaboration (i.e. Praying with children and stuffies at Kids Church with Miss Deb), Marketing (i.e. Booklet featuring both ministries), Building The Kingdom Enhancements (Smart TV and Chromebook for KC for children to see the music videos—an anonymous donor has come forward for this), and Future Initiatives (i.e. Establishing KC at the St. Joe's Campus during the 11:00am Mass).

**Building Bridges:** (Fr. Tom) A subcommittee was formed to consider how our parish can reach out to the LGBT Community in an attempt to “replace a culture of alienation with a culture of merciful inclusion” (Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego). The initial basis for our discussion will be the book *Building a Bridge* by Fr. James Martin, SJ. Deb Carney and Dawn Pavlini will serve with Fr. Tom on this subcommittee.

**Other Parishes' Celebrations:** To be discussed at the September meeting. Steve did mention attending the 9:30am Mass at St. Matthew Parish. Piano music was being played before mass began, and this was a nice way to enter into the worship space.

#### Other Business:

**Cor Unum:** Have the Pastoral Council members volunteer to serve as a group. Choose two times during the year. Members would be able to choose which date would work best for them. (Sue L. has a schedule template). This was done two years ago, and would continue to set a good example for the parish.

**Next PC Meeting:** September 14<sup>th</sup>. PC Retreat is Friday night the 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday morning the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Closing Prayer at 9:05pm:** Fr. Tom