

Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
September 13,2018

Council Members Present: Deacon Jay Cormier, Joan Iannazzo, Kristen Klecan,
Dawn Pavlini, Betty Reddy, Ken Tarara, Lorraine Thompson, Therese Vallario

Council Members Not Present: Deb Carney, Chris Raymond

Guest(s): Fr. Vincent Onunkwo, Kay Barretto, Don and Janet Gagne

Call to Order: 7:15PM

Open Prayer: Kristen Klecan

Fr. Vincent's Report/Updates: Fr. Vincent did not have any items that he needed to report on or give updates too at this time.

Old Business Updates:

Town Hall Meeting: The council members who were able to attend the meeting with the Bishop on September 9, 2018 shared their reflections and thoughts. The members all agreed that the Bishop did an excellent job giving an update on filling Pastor/Priest vacancies around the state. He is prayerful in regards to the situation faced not only with our Parish, but with the others as well. The Bishop stated that it was up to the people to go out and gather followers. Prayer is a necessary aspect of this process by everyone. The matter of the change in Mass times was a combination of the proposals set forth by the various Parish committees. There will only be one priest to preside at the five or six Masses. There will be two priest ordinations in June. A priest who has served as a chaplain in the military will be returning to the Diocese and will be assigned to one of the Parishes. These Mass changes will be announced by the Bishop and take effect on the first Sunday of Advent (December 2nd), as stated in the letter from the Bishop to the various committees. This meeting was videotaped and will air on Channel 17. Ken Tara was going to contact Susan Frazier to see if it could be posted to the Parish webpage. This will give the parishioners who were unable to attend an opportunity to hear and see what took place.

Current Subcommittees: A discussion was held in regards to the current committees, their functions and roles within the Parish. The Welcoming Committee has had some members depart. The Social/Outreach Committee's role is one of evangelization rather than planning social events. The Liturgy Committee was dormant for two years, and has since been reestablished. The question arose as to whether or not this committee is associated with the council or is a separate entity. This item will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting as the council members felt that more time was needed to formulate thoughts on this matter.

Parish vs. Pastoral Council: Fr. Vincent inquired about the difference between a Parish vs. a Pastoral Council. Fr. Vincent was looking for clarification in regards to the decision making power of the council. As stated in the By-Laws: The Pastoral Council will be the representative body of the people of Saints Mary and Joseph Parish and will meet with the Pastor to enhance and expand the decision making process for: Pastoral planning and goal setting, Improving pastoral services and evaluating programs and service effectiveness. The Pastoral Council will be a consultative body, will ensure the parish goals are in harmony with the mission of the Church. The Pastor has the final decision on all matters brought before the council. Fr. Vincent will adhere to this format for the time being.

Committee Representation: It was brought to the council's attention that in order for the council to remain connected to the happenings of Parish life, there should be communication between the various committees/ministries and the council. A suggestion was put forth to have a representative from each committee/ministry be present at each meeting. A member from the Pastoral Staff will be present at each council meeting. Fr. Vincent is in an observational phase as Administrator and will continue to assess how the Parish is moving forward during this transitional period. Kay Barretto will provide a list of the sixty ministries with leaders and contact information to the council members. Communication is the key to the success of the Parish moving forward!

[New Business:](#)

Welcome Packets: Kay Barretto, parish ministry coordinator, addressed the council with regards to how the parish welcomes those who have moved into the Salem area. The names are provided to Kay by a local real estate agent. Each household receives a welcome letter, a list of ministries, information about Parish Pay etc... To enhance this welcoming, Kay will provide an envelope containing a welcome note along with a worship reply sheet. These will be placed alongside the baskets of welcome Rosary Beads at each campus. Fr. Vincent exhorted that this is an excellent way to evangelize to people of all faiths within the Salem community.

Scout Troop: Don Gagne addressed the council about the Cub Scout Troop that has a charter at Saints Mary and Joseph Parish. Currently, there are separate dens for girls and boys in grades 1-5. Mr. Gagne was coming before the council to seek permission to a pack that would consist of both gender groups. Deacon Jay exhorted that this was not a matter in which the Pastoral Council could make a definitive decision. Deacon Jay referred Mr. Gagne to the Diocesan Office of Scouting. This was a matter for the Bishop to look in to and decided if this is an activity that will be able to take place moving forward.

Welcome Newly Baptized: Justine Dufour will be placing the names of the newly baptized children in the bulletin as a way to welcome these new members into our Parish family. Justine receives permission from the parents before posting names.

Rosary Making at Salemhaven: Betty Reddy looked into the possibility of having the residents of Salemhaven assist in the Rosary making ministry. The staff at Salemhaven was thrilled that they were asked, however, after a meeting with their Residence Council, it was determined that the manual dexterity of many of the residents was insufficient for this type of activity. They are willing to take part in future activities.

Priest On Call: The Parish office is closed on Fridays. The answering machine selections will be changed. The first selection will be geared for Spiritual Emergencies. When this selection is chosen, this will go directly to Fr. Vincent's cell phone.

Women's Guild: Betty Reddy proposed the idea of the possibility of Saints Mary and Joseph Parish having a Women's Guild. Betty will be conducting research by visiting other women's groups. She will report her findings at the October council meeting.

Trip to La Salette Shrine, Attleboro,MA: Lorraine Thompson will be placing an article in the bulletin as well as on the Parish website to survey interest in this bus trip. This was a great success last year.

Electronic Giving: The council will be thinking of ways to encourage electronic giving. This is an important piece of the Parish revenue to keep up sustainability. At the October meeting, this topic will be revisited. Fr. Vincent suggested that perhaps the Finance Council Chairperson as well as representatives for the Pastoral Council would be willing to speak at the Masses. Fr. Vincent feels that this message coming from the people to the people would have more of an impact as a whole.

Next Council Meeting: October 11,2018 at MQP in the Emmaus Room

Closing Prayer: 8:58 PM Fr. Vincent