

Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2018

Council Members Present: Fr. Tom, Fr. Al, Deacon Jay Cormier,
Steve Barretto, Deb Carney, Kristen Klecan, Jess Miller, Dawn Pavlini, Debbie Sarnie,
Chris Raymond, Tina Doherty

Council Members Not Present: Lisa Ricci, Therese Vallario

Guests: Fr. Nick, Sue Levesque

Call to Order: 7:16PM

Opening Prayer: Fr. Nick

Father Tom's Pastor Report:

34 Main Street (Yellow House): The purchase & sale process continues to move forward. The purchaser is pursuing a lot line adjustment for the property, since a portion of the easement belonged to the parish. The oil tank that used to feed the house is located underneath the parking lot of St. Joseph Church. The connections to the house have been removed, so the tank is no longer affecting the sale of the house. The tank still holds 2,000 gallons of oil, and the parish appears to be responsible for removing the tank. A bid has been made for the removal/remediation, and Fr Tom will discuss with the Finance Committee.

Parish Mobile App: Parishioners will have access to current and archived bulletins, mass times and other parish information, event calendar, and Livestream at MQP. There is access to the parish Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages; the Bible is available in forty different translations, as well as being able to receive push notifications of news and upcoming events. The parish App is also a convenient way to make financial contributions thru PushPay. Parishioners were given full details in an insert provided in the Feb. 11th bulletin.

Cor Unum: Eleven members from our parish (including Fr. Tom and five Pastoral Council members) served a meal to the poor and homeless on January 25, 2018. It was a successful effort, and all who served were happy to have helped their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Facilities Enhancement: Changing tables for infants have been installed in the bathrooms near the classrooms at MQP. Signage will be displayed.

Father Bill: Has settled into the Campion Renewal Center in Weston, MA. Fr. Tom exhorted that he is thriving in his new abode!

Old Business Updates:

Promoting our Parish Ministries: Kay Barretto continues to send out Welcome Packets to newly registered families, averaging one per week! This has been consistent over the past few months.

Welcoming Community Subcommittee: Fellowship of Coffee & Donuts after the Sunday Masses is still going very well. The Welcome Sachets (containing Rosary beads and a Welcome Prayer) have been popular and have been taken by many new visitors. The sachet supply will be replenished by Jess and Kristen.

Building a Community/Social Subcommittee: Kristen and Therese met and brainstormed and thought of a few events that may serve to enhance the sense of community within our parish: 1). Welcome Reception for our new Pastor--coffee /donuts would be served in the MQP Hall after the 11:00 am mass. 2). Ham & Bean Supper Social Event (details currently being discussed). 3). Cinco de Mayo Social Event (details to follow).

Embracing Hope Subcommittee: Deb Carney proposed having a weekly Abba's Hands article (150-200 words) in the bulletin and website which would focus on the goodness of prayer. This led to a discussion of the very limited space in our bulletin. A suggestion was made to add an extra page so that more information could be presented. Father Tom will inquire about additional costs that would be incurred. Further discussion will take place at the March meeting. Also proposed is a Healing Mass in the spring—more details to be presented at the March meeting. Kids Church attendance has been steady--Miss Dawn reports that an average of fifteen children attend per month, and many new families have joined! Steve mentioned that this has been a great “farm system” for the parish, as children are first introduced to Toddler Time, then graduate to KidsChurch, and then to Liturgy of the Word.

Rebuilt Trip: Those attending this event will include: Fr. Tom, Steve and Kay Barretto, Peter and Kristen Klecan. It will be held in Timonium, MD on April 16th and 17th.

Monthly Potluck (St. Julie Hall): This event has been mentioned in the bulletin and on the website “Events” page (but is not in the Calendar). It is attended by a core group of about eight people. Perhaps opening it up to new couples or families may help to increase attendance, as would additional advertising in the bulletin and website. Perhaps this would be an area for a Communications Coordinator to pursue. (See below).

Parish Website: The Pastoral Council has an informative page on the website which includes an abbreviated summary of its constitution, as well as current members and archived meeting minutes. At our December meeting we agreed that it would be good to have similar webpages for the parish Liturgy Committee and Finance Council. Joe Lessard is working on this idea for the Finance Council, as is Judi Ryan for the Liturgy Committee.

LED Lights: At our MQP campus, all thirty Sanctuary light bulbs have been replaced with new LED bulbs that were donated by the Knights of Columbus. Power consumption has been reduced from 9,000w to 1,200w. The life span is approximately thirteen years.

Communications Coordinator (Publicity Director): Volunteer position. Builds a team to promote SMJP and bring awareness to the community and to our parishioners the many good things that we do. Identifies publicity opportunities and works with staff, social media volunteers, Community Faith Chair, and other parishioners to spread the good news.

Community Faith Publicity Chair: Lorraine Thompson has graciously accepted this volunteer position. She will continue to notify surrounding parishes of our upcoming activities and events.

LiveStream: We will continue to LiveStream all masses at MQP, and viewers will see the Tabernacle at all other times. We are now broadcasting in high-definition, and the audio portion has been greatly improved. Numerous audio/video/IT vendors have donated much of their time and efforts to our parish, and we are extremely grateful for their kindness and generosity.

[New Business:](#)

Stephen Ministry: Fr. Tom spoke about and passed out information on this initiative. Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers (called Stephen Ministers) to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. People learn to serve as Stephen Leaders by attending a Training Course for one week. There is a one-time fee of \$1,700. The conference introduces the resources used to lead this Ministry, develops key skills, and gets people excited about this caring ministry. Most congregations begin with two to four Stephen Leaders. This Ministry will touch people within the broader community. People who would be leaders would be invested and not shy. This perhaps would be a means of drawing parishioners into becoming involved in new ministries. Fr. Al suggested having a ministry where people

would read various items to the elderly. The world lacks people to listen to those who are lonely. Fr. Nick exhorted that the Church commissions us to go out into the world and reach those who are isolated from the community. This would be a fantastic way to service people in the Salem area. At this time, the council will revisit this in the future as there is a need to focus on empowering our current ministries. We will assess our needs at the parish level and move forward as we enter a transitional phase with a new Pastor.

Big Church Day Out: This event will be held the same day as Salemfest in September. Currently, our concert may not start until 4:00pm. This is an opportunity to go out into the greater community and meet people where they are at. An advantage to having Big Church Day Out during Salemfest is that it will be heavily advertised by the Salemfest Committee. Frs. Tom and Nick then noted that Pope Francis exhorts all of us be “mission-oriented”, and Big Church Day Out is an opportunity to go out into the community and bring the people of Salem together (with other churches) to bond. The Social Subcommittee also suggested bringing back the Parish Bazaar (which had brought many people together in the past).

Formed .Org: Council members had reviewed this over the last month. This is a wonderful spiritual, educational, and informational resource tool. The cost to the parish would be \$1,700/yr. so that parishioners may use the service at no cost. Another option is that parishioners could simply pay \$9.99/month on their own (similar to a Netflix subscription). Further evaluation and discussion will take place in March.

Bishop Libasci's Letter/Meeting: The Bishop met for nearly two hours with members of the parish in January at St Julie Hall. He assured everyone that the school and both churches will remain open! The consensus was that there is a need for a strong pastor that will continue our mission--someone who is vibrant, charismatic, and young-thinking. The Bishop will decide how he wants to proceed. Fr. Nick observed from being here one month that this parish is in a good place, and exudes spirituality—and we should not give in to distress or anxiety. Rather, we should pray and place our trust in God. It was agreed that we will patiently await Bishop Libasci's decision as to who will be our new pastor and shepherd.

Other Business:

Next Council Meeting: March 8, 2018 at MQP in the Emmaus Room

Closing Prayer: 9:12 pm Fr. Tom