

Church of Saint Eulalia
Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) - Minutes of Meeting
June 13, 2018

Present: Father Nelson Bediako (covering for Father Jim Savage who is on vacation), Martha Bujwid, Jessica Callaghan, Louise Cocuzzo, Brian Collins, Kathy Creedon, Mary DeCoursey, Doran Donovan, Mary Deyst, Anna-Marie Ferraro, Adele Hamblett, Claire McKenna, Joan Sweeney

Absent: Father Jim Savage (on vacation), Brian Burke, Chris DeCaro, Clare Keane, Tony Lockhart, John Pescatore, Mike Pescatore

Opening Prayer. Father Nelson said the opening prayer.

Minutes of Meeting. The May 9, 2018 minutes were accepted as corrected. The corrections were: (1) On page 3 the second paragraph, change the date of May 11/12 to read May 12/13. (2) On page 3 under **Miscellaneous Business** paragraph 2, add an apostrophe to PPCs to read PPC's.

Pastor Update.

No report as Father Jim is on a well-earned vacation.

Introductions/Thank You/Overview. As newly elected PPC members were in attendance, all those at the meeting introduced themselves. The outgoing vice chairperson expressed her thanks to all for their service, especially those completing their terms.

The vice chairperson went on to explain that PPC meetings usually take place the second Wednesday of the month with the exception of December, July and August when PPC does not meet. The meetings run from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Agenda items and the previous month's minutes will be made available to membership a few days before the meeting date.

Election of PPC Officers. St. Eulalia's PPC Constitution governs how PPC functions. Thus, the rules regarding the election of the vice chairperson and assistant vice chairperson must be followed. The present vice chairperson went on to explain the role of each office. Father Jim is PPC's chairperson. The vice chairperson helps the pastor to plan the agenda and runs the PPC meetings while the assistant vice chairperson assists the vice chairperson in whatever tasks are assigned and runs the meetings when the vice chairperson cannot attend and also helps to set the agenda.

Nomination and election of officers are normally done by paper ballot but as there was only one nomination for vice chairperson, Claire McKenna, the ballot was done by a show of hands. And as there was only one nomination for assistant vice chairperson, Jessica Callaghan, the ballot was done by a show of hands. Claire McKenna was elected as vice chairperson for the 2018-2019 term and Jessica Callaghan was elected assistant vice chairperson for the 2018-2019 term. All PPC members took part in the voting.

Finance. The latest OSR figures available are through April. Donations total \$566,858 versus \$468,045 last year at the same time. The current number of contributors is 638 compared to 717 last year. Net income is \$113,837.

Catholic Appeal 2018. The website has been shut down temporarily because of a potential virus, so many details are not available. Total pledges are \$104,290, 92% of our \$113,725 goal, from 295 donors. The page on the website allowing pledges is available and will not compromise anyone who visits it.

Liturgy.

Our pastoral associate reported that Father Brennan did a tremendous job with the Corpus Christi procession and benediction celebration. On May 27, 2018 Father Tom Nestor said Mass at St. Eulalia's and awarded three

scholarships from the Father Tom Nestor Scholarship Fund to parishioners. Marty Brounstein will present on *The Holocaust: An Interfaith Story of Courage and Compassion* on June 6, 2018 in Manion Hall at 7 p.m. And on July 1, 2018 after the 5 p.m. Mass a blessing will be bestowed on the young adults setting out for Catholic Heart Work Camp.

PPC Election Committee

Review. The chairperson of the PPC Election Committee reviewed the existing system as outlined in the PPC Constitution:

- Twelve members each year, six returning and six new members
- Three groups: two each of the general population; two each from the parent category; and two each from the youth category for a total of six new members each year

For the nomination election process, there will be four candidates in each category with two selected from each category to serve.

Recommendations. The following are the suggestions/comments made to change the constitution:

- Use a discernment process to select PPC members instead of having an election.
- Some parishioners are confused by the process and wonder why there are two elections.

The following are the suggestions/comments made to improve the nomination process:

- Start gathering nominees two or more months before the elections.
- Invite parishioners to meetings to better understand what the PPC does.
- Ask the Religious Education staff for the names of parents and youth members.
- Communicate more through the bulletin, e-mail, Facebook and the web.
- Nominees should give their biographies prior to the nominee election round.
- The biographies and nominee photos should be on the bulletin board for a longer time before the election.
- Change the “nomination ballot” to a “primary ballot” to help parishioners understand that nominations are not the general elections.
- Do not have a nomination election. Instead have all nominees go on the election ballot in their respective categories.

The following are the suggestions/comments made regarding the ballot process:

- Hand out the ballots and collect them so everyone gets only one ballot. At least three people at each Mass would be needed. Anyone not running may hand out a ballot.
- Extend voting over two weekends so anyone who misses a weekend gets a chance to vote.
- Keep nominee photos on the ballot.
- Getting enough people to run is problematic.
- Maybe the *Youth* category should be for one year.
- A high school freshmen or sophomore would probably not have enough confidence to participate in PPC.
- The nomination process was confusing. If all nominee names were put on a simple ballot in their category and one vote taken, it would improve the process.
- The nominee ballot as it stands is very dense.
- When our collaborative forms there will only be one PPC; so, why spend a lot of time changing the constitution?
- PPC should go ahead with changing the constitution because you never know what will happen or it may take a while to organize the collaborative’s PPC.
- How can we utilize the services of those nominees who only got a few votes but didn’t get to run?
- People wishing to run for PPC should commit ahead of the nomination ballot process.
- Begin soliciting nominees in February and put all their names on the ballot.

Hospitality Committee.

The Bannons will continue to organize and run “Coffee and Conversation” after the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass once a month. Whole Foods is currently unable to donate the food for this event. Some suggestions as to how this event

might be funded were: (1) The parish could pay the expenses. (2) Parishioners could donate baked goods. (3) A free-will offering container could be provided. (4) Perhaps Market Basket or Dunkin Donuts would like to donate.

The PPC barbeque/pot luck picnic will be held on June 24, 2018 after the 5 p.m. Mass at the “white house.” Families members are invited. Mary Deyst volunteered herself and her husband John to do the barbequing.

This year’s Fall Festival will take place on Sunday, September 16, 2018, after the 11 a.m. Mass. Doran Donovan has volunteered to chair the committee. There is a need for someone to organize the volunteers. Lori Pescatore did it last year. Doran will do an e-vite for volunteers. It was noted that several people will be needed to grill as those volunteers need to be rotated. The suggested theme for this year’s festival is Heroes and Heroines, real and super. It was suggested that we ask the fire department to provide a fire truck and invite some police and military people.

Miscellaneous Business

Arlington Town Day. September 15, 2018 is the date set for Arlington’s Town Day. Mark Earnest has volunteered to organize our booth. He will need volunteers. If you are able to help, you can contact him at markj.earnest@gmail.com or at 339-368-0418.

Suggestions for a Better PPC. The following suggestions were offered by membership:

- PPC members should be more visible.
- The request for comments/concerns should be put in the church bulletin the week before and have them put their comment/concern in writing.
- Parishioner ideas should also be included.

PPC’s chairperson for the 2018-2019 term asked members for ideas on what PPC should work on for the new term. One suggestion was to work on making St. Eulalia’s a really welcoming parish for children, making families feel really comfortable to bring their children to church.

Comments and Concerns

The following were the comments received:

- A parishioner was unhappy with the sound of the “clicker” that is used to count the number of attendees at Mass.
- There are usually not enough consecrated hosts on the ramp side of the church. Response: Father generally distributes the hosts on the altar according to the number of people within each section of the church. Sometimes a minister of Holy Communion does not go to the position anticipated. If a minister of Holy Communion should run out of hosts, that minister should seek out more hosts from another minister of Holy Communion.

Closing Prayer. The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Connell, PPC Secretary