



**Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Sudbury, MA**  
Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes, October 6, 2008 Meeting

Attendance: Fr. Bova Conti, Mike Carpenter, Pat Guthy, Michael LaScaleia, Beth Palmerino, Liz Radoski, John Riordan, Jim Roach, Mary Toland

Father began the meeting with Evening Vespers at 7:30 p.m.

New Members

After the evening prayer, since this was our first formal meeting of the new PPC year (last month much of the council attended the planning session conducted by Fr. George Evans at St. Julia's), each member of the council introduced themselves and new members Mike Carpenter and Beth Palmerino were welcomed onto the council.

Updates

Father provided the council with brief updates on several items.

Mass attendance (annual accounting each October for the Archdiocese) was up in the first weekend of the month (the 5:00 pm Mass was quite full and over 1200 parishioners attended Masses) and this was encouraging.

Grand Annual collection amounts were down significantly from last year and may well be a symptom of the poor economy. Father advised however that a significant percentage of the collection comes in throughout October and into November. There was discussion that continuing to report progress on this important annual collection in the bulletin would be useful and a helpful reminder to some past contributors.

A discussion of the pastoral planning process and collaboration with parishes in Collaborative D (Wayland, Weston and Sudbury) ensued. Father reported on meetings of the parish staffs in Collaborative D in June and September, and a November meeting is scheduled for Wayland. It was also noted that Thomas Groome, Director of the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College spoke at the collaborative meeting at St. Anselm's in September. Partial financial support for this engagement was provided by Our Lady of Fatima.

There was a brief discussion of Virtus training (“Protecting God’s Children”), the active OLF CAP team and ongoing training for OLF ministries and for others from the vicariate who wished to attend. Father noted that the Archdiocese audits the training program and each parish’s compliance.

#### Collaborative Planning – September Program at St. Julia’s

There was a wide ranging discussion of the program presented by Fr. George Evans of St. Julia’s (Weston) providing a status report on the collaborative planning process that an Archdiocesan Report recommends commencing at the grass roots parish level. A large number of members of the OLF PPC attended the St. Julia’s session; in fact, the OLF delegation was by far the largest group at the meeting. It was noted that after Fr. Evans’ power point presentation, there was a lively discussion of both the status of the process, and of the process itself. There were a number of comments from priests in attendance, as well as other parish council attendees, that there was a strong need for focus on spirituality as well as planning for process/logistics and challenges presented by the declining number of priests. Discussion ensued about the respective roles of the Archbishop, the regional bishops and the vicars in providing guidance to parishes regarding this collaborative process. A theme that came up several times during the discussion part of the program was the need for concrete guidance (and timetables) for local parishes, many of which were willing and eager to engage but did not want to get too far “down the track” only later to find out the Archdiocese had something else in mind. After the formal presentation and comments, there was an opportunity for our PPC members to talk with parish council members and priests from other parishes about their initiatives and multi-parish collaborations.

#### Adjourn

After a prayer to Our Lady, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

*The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for Monday Nov. 3, 2008 at the Parish Center.*