



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

Minutes, January 12, 2009 Regular Meeting

In attendance: Fr. Bova Conti, John Nicholson, Pat Guthy, Beth Palmerino, Liz Radoski, Mary Toland, John Riordan, Jim Roach, Jill Shanley, George Guanci

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

Review of Council Meeting Minutes for Dec. 1, 2008

The minutes for the previous council meeting held on Monday evening December 1, 2008 were approved. John Nicholson will place them on the parish web site.

Collaborative D

Father Bova Conti recounted a recent discussion amongst the pastors of the Collaborative D parishes (Wayland, Weston, Lincoln, Sudbury) regarding the pastoral planning committee report and local initiatives. Points were raised regarding a lack of specific direction from the Archdiocese. There was sentiment that some joint liturgical programming might be undertaken, but that it might be too early for actual joint pastoral planning. A joint meeting of some or all of the pastoral councils was felt to be unwieldy at this time. Father offered the observation that some more ecclesial teaching might be in order at the outset of this process so that there would be a common sense and understanding of what we see as “Church” as this process unfolds. John Riordan underscored the high value, in his view, of this ecclesial formation for all of the parish councils in the collaborative.

The next meeting of the Collaborative D pastoral planning working group is scheduled for January 15, 2009 at St. Anselm’s.

Breaking Bread

Father and Deacon John Nicholson described the launch of the Breaking Bread program. Donna Biggins of the Stewardship Commission was commended for her hard work in developing the program which is intended to foster a greater sense of community amongst parishioners. Announcements will be made from the pulpit at Masses later in the month and inserts and sign-up materials made available in the bulletin, at the Church and on the web site. The Council felt this was a promising program and will create a real sense of social communion among the faithful of the parish.

### Stewardship Discussion

Father and Deacon John led a discussion of stewardship, and specifically posed the question “How do we foster stewardship in our parish community?”. It was pointed out that, consistent with some teaching in upcoming scheduled scripture readings, stewardship is a broad concept that holds that each of us has unique talents and gifts and the object of stewardship is to encourage the use of these gifts and talents as instructed by the Lord and in service to the parish family, our communities and the socially marginalized. Stewardship thus serves to give our faith more direction and meaning. Our Lady of Fatima has a Stewardship Commission and Deacon John mentioned that he will distribute to the PPC copies of the monthly meeting minutes of the Commission. It was observed that it would be a good idea soon to have a joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Stewardship Commission, along the lines of the successful joint meeting with the Finance Council.

### Recent Developments

There was a brief discussion of some recent town events, including matters pertaining to holiday-related religious displays at Town Center, and a disturbing event at Curtis Middle School involving a groping spree among some students that shed light on a troubling lack of respect for the individual. In response to some questions Father also explained some of the logistical challenges involved with the scheduling of Christmas liturgies.

### 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 February 2, 2009 at the Parish Center.*