



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

Minutes, April 6, 2009 Regular Meeting

In attendance: Fr. Bova Conti, Deacon John Nicholson, Pat Guthy, Mike LaScaleia, Beth Palmerino, Mike Carpenter, Mary Toland, John Riordan, Jim Roach, Jill Shanley.

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

Review of Council Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2008

The minutes for the previous council meeting held on Monday evening March 9, 2009 were reviewed and approved.

Youth Ministry

Fr. Bova Conti informed the Council that Patti Cappelloni was stepping down as Director of OLF's Youth Ministry program. Patti will still be involved with many parish activities but is looking forward to spending more time with her husband and children. Father praised Patti for her hard work, great organizational skills and tireless contributions to the important youth ministry programs. She will be missed. Father will consult with Patti and parish staff to consider options for staffing this function in the future.

PPC Ministry Outreach

In order to reach out to the whole parish and encourage active faithful to participate in the important work of the Parish Pastoral Council there will be a PPC ministry table set up after all the Masses on the weekend of May 2-3. There will also be a brief announcement addressed to the congregation at the conclusion of each Mass describing the work of the Council, the need for representative participation and inviting folks to come down to the church hall after Mass to learn more about the Council and its role in parish life. Volunteers from the council for coverage for the May 2-3 Masses were: Pat Guthy Sat. 5:00 p.m., John Riordan, Sunday 7:30 a.m., Mary Toland, Sunday 9:30 a.m., Mike Carpenter, Sunday 11:30 a.m. John Riordan also will prepare a brief insert for the May 2009 monthly parish newsletter, and will distribute to the volunteer speakers talking points regarding the PPC.

Collaborative D Update

Fr. Bova Conti discussed the minutes of the last Collaborative D meeting with the Council. He indicated that he communicated his concern to the other pastors that the minutes appeared to understate the impact that the reconfiguration process had on Our Lady of Fatima parish. Among other things, the minutes reflect that for a variety of reasons other parishes in the collaborative are not very far along

even in analyzing or discussing the Diocesan Planning Report or beginning to examine the impact of the resource challenges identified in that report upon their faith communities. There was also a brief discussion of the successful multi-parish Lenten retreat, and other parish initiatives such as the Arise program (St. Julia, St. Anselm and St. Ann) and Breaking Bread (Our Lady of Fatima). The next Collaborative D meeting is scheduled for Pastors and parish staff on Monday, May 11 and will be hosted by Our Lady of Fatima.

### Pastoral Planning

Fr. Bova Conti handed out a copy of the current Parish Mission Statement to each member of the Council. John Riordan also provided a handout that included basic guidelines and elements of a pastoral plan, pastoral planning cycles, and certain evaluation and mission and vision statement worksheets for the benefit of the Council. Since adoption of or review of an existing mission statement is the first step in the pastoral planning process, a discussion ensued regarding the current mission statement, including questions such as: is it still vital for the parish community, and do members of the parish know and use it? Father challenged the Council to consider the very core questions of “Is there today a purpose for the Church – is there a need and mission for the Church anymore?” as fundamental questions of examination as we begin the process of planning for the future of the parish and its role in the broader Archdiocese. Jim Roach posed the question: ‘Do we as a Council support and embrace the idea of pastoral planning?’ and if the answer is yes, then we should adopt a planning process such as or similar to that laid out in Dr. William Pickett’s pastoral planning guide.

A discussion followed the general tenor of which was that at least at our own parish level the pastoral planning exercise should be embraced. It was also felt that it may well be appropriate to appoint a planning committee of 2-4 members (including non-PPC participants) to begin the process of reviewing the mission statement, evaluating key areas of pastoral concern, identifying concerns issues and ideals, engaging the parish in this dialogue, and then articulating objectives and action plans. This team would then report back to Father and the PPC in the Fall or Winter. There is expected to be further discussion of the mechanics of this process at next month’s PPC meeting.

Father asked the Council to set aside the morning of Saturday, May 30 2009 for a PPC retreat. More details will be forthcoming. The retreat will be a significant reminder of the importance of prayer and reflection on our faith as we embark on the pastoral planning process.

### Other Business

Father noted that there was no presence for Our Lady of Fatima at the well attended Sudbury Day festivities recently held on the grounds of Lincoln Sudbury Reg. High School. Some other faith groups had tables or booths, and Father believes that a presence for OLF is important (particularly since OLF is the largest faith community in the town). Father felt that we need to make it a point to participate in the event in the future.

### Adjourn

After a prayer to Our Lady, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for Monday May 4, 2009 at the Parish Center.*