



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

Minutes, May 4, 2009 Regular Meeting

In attendance: Fr. Bova Conti, 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 April 6, 2009

The minutes for the previous council meeting held on Monday evening April 6, 2009 were reviewed and adopted.

Upcoming Pastoral Planning Retreat for Parish Council

Father Bova Conti provided some details for the upcoming May 30<sup>th</sup> pastoral planning retreat for members of the parish pastoral council. The retreat will be a half-day program at The Marist House in Framingham. Father is engaging a facilitator who has experience with the spiritual aspects and related prayerful guidance for parish lay leaders and clergy who are engaged in the pastoral planning process.

Jill Shanley asked that we give thought to setting an intention for the retreat, and this led to a discussion of what the council would like to come out of the retreat experience. There was a general consensus that all wanted to bring open minds and hearts ready for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and how best the Council and clergy of the parish could incorporate their special gifts into the everyday life of the parish and in particular the pastoral planning exercise. Father will work with the retreat facilitator to select some scripture readings that council members can reflect upon in advance of the retreat. He indicated that a key attribute for a successful retreat will be a willingness to be good listeners and to hear each other and the Holy Spirit at work amongst us.

Collaborative D Update

Father Bova Conti gave a general report on the February Collaborative D working group meeting and the meeting of the pastors on April 27, 2009. The upcoming meeting of the staffs and pastors on May 11 was noted. OLF will be hosting that planning meeting. Father related that the pastors had a wide ranging discussion of the many challenges of pastoral planning and the generally recognized need that within the collaborative there should be some common themes to the pastoral planning process so that all parishes are more or less on the same page.

Father followed up with some observations that we should continue to go forward at OLF with some data gathering, etc. while the Archdiocese and Collaborative prepare further for a planning template. He said that the pastors generally agreed that it would be a good idea to continue to look at ways to do some multi-parish common programs (such as the 4-week Lenten retreat).

Following up on his comments from the previous council meeting, Jim Roach suggested that we should go back to the parishioners who have expressed interest in the pastoral planning process and develop some consensus on how we are going to go about this exercise, and then with the guidance available from sources such as the Pickett text on pastoral planning, consider empowering a team to undertake pastoral planning recommendations for the council, Father and ultimately the parish.

John Riordan discussed the advantages of using a small subgroup or team, including perhaps some members of the council, to begin this work and to have objectives and a timetable for getting back to the full council. There was general agreement among all at the meeting that in order for pastoral planning to be successful it will have to be considered a real priority of the parish.

### Adjourn

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

*The final meeting of this year's Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for Monday June 1, 2009 at the Parish Center.*