



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

Minutes, November 3, 2008 Meeting

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

The meeting began with prayer at 7:30 p.m.

Review of Council Meeting Minutes for Oct 6, 2008

After the evening prayer, the minutes for the previous council meeting held on Monday evening Oct 6 were distributed and reviewed.

There was also discussion regarding the best process for reviewing the draft minutes for each subsequent council meeting. It was generally agreed that the person taking the minutes would submit the first draft to John Riordan who would review it and e-mail a copy to all council members for review and comment. Once all approvals or comments were submitted back to John, he would make any necessary changes and submit the minutes draft to Fr. Bova Conti. After his final review, Fr. Bova Conti would pass the finalized council meeting minutes to John Nicholson to post on the parish web site after a motion to approve at next PPC meeting.

Updates

Father provided the council with brief updates on several items.

Sunday Mass attendance total for October was as follows:

1st Sunday – 1226 attendees

2nd Sunday - 791

3rd Sunday - 1017

4th Sunday - 1025

Average Sunday attendance for October = 1089

So, over 200 people are missing from Mass on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month versus the 1st Sunday. There was then some discussion around why attendance varied. It was also noted that only about 20% of Catholics nationally attend church on a regular basis.

Father reviewed donation pattern comparison between Oct of 2007 and October 2008 and mentioned that 730 households have given to the parish in 2008. So far, grand annual collection amounts are down significantly from a year ago.

Father then mentioned that the parish successfully completed an independent audit, commissioned by the Archdiocese, which is scheduled to take place every three years. He also noted that the auditor mentioned that most parishes need a good bookkeeper rather than a full time business manager.

He also said that any budgetary shortfalls resulting from the more challenging economic environment that may develop this year should be able to be covered by accessing parish reserves.

Collaborative Planning

There was a wide ranging discussion regarding collaborative planning and how to best approach it, and toward what objectives such planning should be directed.

Father said that parish staff would be attending a Collaborative D meeting Tuesday, November 18 and would be participating in discussions with the other collaborative pastors about pastoral planning, the need for a common definition of pastoral planning, and gaining a sense of the group on how to best proceed. Collaborative D consists of the Catholic parishes in Sudbury, Wayland and Weston.

Father then requested recommendations/suggestions from the council members as to subjects to discuss at the upcoming Collaborative D meeting and to e-mail those suggestions to him by the end of the day this Sunday, November 9.

Meeting with Parish Finance Council Members

Since only a few of the members of the Pastoral Planning Council and the members of the Parish Finance Council know one another, Father said he would check with the Finance Council members as to their availability to meet with the Pastoral Council members for a joint meeting planned for Monday evening, December 1.

Father Bova Conti's Request for Input

Fr. Bova Conti requested the council members to share with him anything they thought he should know, or would like to bring up. Nothing of significance was mentioned.

Adjourn

After a prayer to Our Lady, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is scheduled for Monday Dec. 1, 2008 at the Parish Center.