

St. Anne/St. Catherine CPC Meeting Minutes

March 19th, 2019

Attendees

Pastor: Fr. Peter Quinn Senior Priest in Residence: Fr. David White

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Members: Rita Biagioni, Diane Croy, Francine McGrath, Mihran Keoseian (via phone), Joe McGann, Judy Moodie, Oscar Monarrez and Jackie Welham.

Ex Officio Members & Others: Deacon Bill Dwyer, Debbie Rhodes, Peg Hicks, and Sue Gormley.

PPC Member Regrets

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Members: Fr. Joe Rossi, Wes Baker

Location

The March meeting was held at the St. Anne Rectory.

Meeting Notes

Dinner and fellowship began at 6:00PM. The meeting commenced at 7:00PM. The meeting began with a prayer led by Peg Hicks.

Co-chair Oscar Monarrez facilitated the meeting.

Open Session

Kathy Lynch and Rita Jarvis, representing the Collaborative Respect Life Ministry, briefed the CPC on proposed Massachusetts legislation (SD109 “An Act to Remove Obstacles and Expand Abortion Access” & H3320 “An Act Removing Obstacles and Expanding Access to Women's Reproductive Health”) modeled after similar legislation passed recently in New York. Kathy provided a one-page draft statement for consideration and noted that they were open to changes in the language. The Collaborative Respect Life Ministry asked that the Collaborative take an official stand by publishing their proposed letter, speaking out from the pulpit against the proposed Massachusetts Bills on abortion and publicizing both items in the bulletin. Kathy and Rita were informed that their proposal would be discussed during the Executive Session and the decision would be relayed to them by the end of the week.

The team had an extensive and productive discussion during the Executive Session of the meeting. Fr. Peter and the Council feel this is an important issue that parishioners need to be made aware of and therefore, to that effect, we reached a consensus to take the following steps to achieve this:

- Publish an announcement in the Bulletin to inform parishioners of the proposed legislation; this will not be the Ministry provided letter.

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- Make clergy pulpit announcements to encourage parishioners to read about the proposed Massachusetts law changes, and to contact their State Senator and Representative to voice their opinion on the matter.
- Make hard copies of the proposed law changes available at both parishes for parishioners to take home and read.

The Council will rely on Fr. Peter to choose the weekend (hopefully before Easter) to make these announcements. Fr. Peter will reach out to State Representative James Arciero to determine the timeline for the proposed legislation, so he can factor that into the timing of the announcement. Additionally, Fr. Peter asked Deacon Bill to contact the Mass Catholic Conference (MCC), who speak for the Church on public policy issues, to find out what actions they are taking, and the timing of those actions. In any due diligence outreach we need to be sensitive to adversely impacting the timing of the pulpit announcements.

Another recommendation the CPC made to Fr. Peter, was to focus the announcements on the proposed Massachusetts legislation changes, rather than on the New York law, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and/or the Second Vatican Council references. The rationale behind this recommendation is to help parishioners focus on the more immediate actions to be considered.

Lastly, the Council, as well as Fr. Peter, believe that these announcements must also include information about other important resources related to this issue, such as the Project Rachel Ministry, and the services the Archdiocese of Boston offers to pregnant women. Deacon Bill mentioned that our parishes will be putting Project Rachel information in the ladies' room so women may pick it up confidentially.

Deacon Bill Dwyer noted that many states are moving to adopt similar legislation in anticipation that Roe V Wade will eventually be overturned at the Federal level.

A second Open Session presenter was Tom Fitzpatrick our Collaborative Liaison to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC). Tom presented an RCAB publication entitled "Our Commitment to Pastoral Support, Healing, Protection and Prevention" addressing the sexual abuse crisis. Tom asked that the Collaborative share this information with parishioners, which has already been done. He also asked that a new website be shared with parishioners: <https://commitment.bostoncatholic.org> which addresses the Archdioceses commitment to protection, prevention and healing.

Tom asked Fr. Peter and the Council what concerns they would like to share with Cardinal O'Malley. Some of the suggestions included ensuring that publicity from RCAB is clear on reporting abuse to law enforcement first; it was suggested that if abuse claims are historic and not recent that it should be shared with the public; it was suggested that RCAB needs to be more proactive instead of reactive with publicity; and Tom was told that people need to feel assured that RCAB has a fast-track approach to reports of abuse. Members indicated that the Archdiocese needs to do a much better job in communicating on issues related to clergy abuse including how well new procedures are working and the trend in the number of reported cases. To many CPC members and Collaborative parishioners, it appears that the Archdiocese is either operating in a reactive mode or simply fails to show up to present its side of the story.

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Executive Session: Introductions and Here and Now

No introduction of those in attendance was required. Because of the extended Open Session the here and now session was postponed.

Meeting Minutes

Members approved the November 2018 Meeting Minutes unanimously.

Executive Session: Old Business

1. Stewardship/Parish Survey Update (Debbie)

Debbie noted that the Collaborative newsletter is now being published in-house and the first of the (now) quarterly issues should arrive at parishioner homes this week. The Spring issue did include a parishioner's reflection on the clergy abuse crisis (as a part of the Pastor's letter). The next issue of the newsletter will have a follow-up article to include information received tonight from RCAB on their commitment and plan going forward, what the Collaborative itself is doing and information on how to report an incident of abuse.

The final update on Stewardship was about the LANDINGS program which was brought to the attention of the Stewardship Council by one of their members. It was decided to offer the program beginning this summer. This is an 8-week program for welcoming people back to the Church. Deacon Bill volunteered to be the liaison for both those expressing an interest and parishioners who have been asked to be facilitators for the 8-week program. Information about this program has been published in several local newspapers.

2. Reconstituting the CPC for 2019/2020 (Hold)

3. Periodic Mass Count Publication (Hold)

Executive Session: New Business

1. January Joint CPC, PFC and Staff Meeting Discussion with Fr. Earley

Fr. Peter noted that he had established a working group to consider the Collaborative model we are in versus the one parish, multiple church model that Fr. Earley adopted in Wilmington. Following the January presentation a focus group meeting was held. The focus group was comprised of several people who had attended Fr. Earley's presentation. Fr. Peter relayed that the focus group did not find a compelling reason at this time to move forward towards a one parish, multi-church model. The only perceived benefit at this time would be administrative. The group felt that things were positive with the Collaborative right now, but we need to do a better job of creating a sense of community. Ministries and events are working well, but we have more work to do with parishioners themselves. Perhaps more events that are strictly social would be beneficial. Fr. Peter said that parishioners need more education about collaboration and the potential for Fr. Joe to get reassigned in 2020. Fr. Peter also reminded everyone that he will be 75 years old next year. Until the upcoming summer mass schedule, there hasn't been a major impact or change

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visible to parishioners. Fr. Peter concluded by reminding everyone that we are one, but to ponder whether or not we are doing enough to prepare people for the future.

2. Meeting Schedule and Management (Mihran)

Mihran suggested that we have alternative dates established for meetings in the December – March timeframe to avoid what happened this year due to bad weather-related cancelations. Oscar and Joe will work with Denise to include this in the proposed 2019/2020 schedule; this happens in the May/June timeframe. The management piece was held for a future meeting.

3. Update from Annual Stewardship Renewal Meeting (Oscar)

Oscar related that one of the topics brought up to ministry leaders during these meetings was ensuring that volunteers follow all safety protocols in place in our Collaborative. Oscar reminded all CPC members that they need to ensure they are complying. A key point from this meeting was to ensure that new members go through the required process, i.e. CORI prior to undertaking any responsibility and every year thereafter, completing the Protecting God's Children (VIRTUS) training, reading and signing Code of Ministerial Behavior (for 18 and older).

4. Forming Leaders for Mission Workshop (Oscar, Debbie, Peg, Sue, Deacon Bill)

Oscar reported that the workshop presented by RCAB was great and he would like to obtain the workshop materials to share with those CPC members who were not in attendance. Debbie indicated she will try to obtain those materials and find out when additional workshops are scheduled in the Archdiocese.

Final Comments: Fr. Peter / Fr. Joe / Fr. David

Fr. Peter thanked everyone for sharing their time and talent with the Collaborative and openness in discussing issues.

Closing Prayer: Father Peter / Father Joe / Fr. David

The meeting concluded after 9:15 PM with a short period of silence and a prayer by Fr. David.

The next CPC meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2019 at St. Catherine's Rectory.