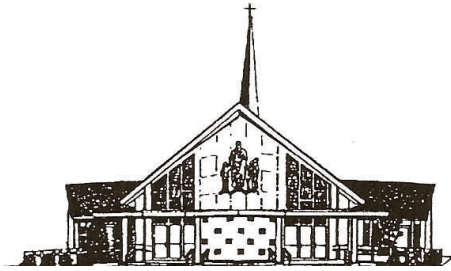


St. Pius X Parish Pastoral Council



Minutes

Meeting Date: June 22, 2011

Present: Frs. George Bellenoit and David Deston, Deacon Dick Zeich, Jean Kelly, Betty Tormey, Michelle Crowley, George Perkins, Joe Daly, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Steve Sozanski and Maureen Bach

Jean Kelly led the committee in prayer that included a reading from 1 Kings 3:7-15.

Fr. Bellenoit introduced Christopher Peschel, a seminarian for the Diocese of Fall River, who will work in our parish this summer as part of his ongoing priestly formation.

The council members reviewed a transcription of the individual comments written on index cards by participants at the May 22 parish assembly. Because no participants objected to the council's deliberate focus on three of the seven essential elements of parish life (worship, evangelization, and community) as well as the goals and objectives articulated with respect to each, the council inferred tacit approval from the parish. One of the worship objectives has been realized (Communion under both species at a weekend liturgy) while another (parish catechesis regarding the Roman Missal, 3rd ed.) is in preparation. With respect to our evangelization objectives, assembly participants were asked their preference for small or large group format in adult formation. Responses favored small groups. Participants were also asked whether they wished "to form the evangelized or evangelize the loosely connected." No consensus could be found in these responses. This confusion may reflect misunderstandings of "evangelization." Regarding our community goal, several comments indicate that communication between parish ministries and parish members needs improvement: some sought improvement explicitly; others unfamiliar with existing ministries did so implicitly.

Joe Daley and Michelle Crowley agreed to email thank you notes to ministry leaders who attended the March 21 or 22 sessions introducing the parish mission statement.

The council returned to a frequently offered but not well articulated criticism of the parish: it is "unfriendly" or "unwelcoming." Again, it was acknowledged that others find the parish quite friendly and welcoming. The discussion focused on one proposal to respond to this criticism, inviting worshipers in the pews to greet each other just before the entrance hymn and procession. A few committee members thought that some worshipers would chafe at being directed to do so and that the act itself smacked of insincerity. Others thought that such direction would disturb the prayerful attitude some worshipers wish to develop before mass begins. A compromise was offered to insert into the bulletin an invitation to extend such a greeting. This too seemed insincere. In the end, consensus was found around a "lead by example" approach wherein council members agreed to arrive early and leave late to greet parishioners.

A community-building proposal to establish a list that would allow parishioner-consumers to identify parishioner-service-providers was tabled until the next meeting. Some council members thought establishing

such a list would discourage non-parishioners from advertizing in the weekly bulletin thereby reducing a source of parish revenue.

The members of the cross-parish consultative body to build up adult faith formation, one of the objectives the council set for its evangelization goal, will meet for the first time on June 30. Representatives from Our Lady of the Cape (Patricia Clock), St. Francis Xavier (Daniel Nunes), and St. Pius X (George Perkins) compose this group; although invited twice, Holy Trinity Parish has not responded.

Fr. Bellenoit reported that he and Fr. Deston had met with Douglas M. Rodrigues and Diane L. Rinkacs from the diocesan Pastoral Planning Office. Together they reviewed the workings of our parish pastoral council. Rodrigues and Rinkacs offered their assistance for example as our council prepares to discern new members or plans its next parish assembly.

Fr. Bellenoit also updated the council on plans to renovate the parish worship space and to raise funds to accomplish these. Two drawings depicting proposed renovations were shown to the council. One with a view to the rear of the nave showed a wall that would separate the nave from a narthex. An image of our patron is etched in glass above the doors through this wall. Behind this wall, an entrance hall or gathering space would be created after removing the last seven pews. The narthex would include a vesting room and a rest room. The other drawing again from the nave but looking to the altar shows a new reredos and crucifix. In addition, Fr. Bellenoit reported that the sanctuary would have an enlarged ambo, the restored tabernacle from the parish's original worship space would replace the current tabernacle, and a new access ramp would be constructed.

The council next meets on August 22 when Barbara Fitzpatrick will lead our prayer and Joe Daly will record the minutes.