

**Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
Parish Pastoral Council
May 27, 2010
7:30-8:30 p.m.**

Present: Andy Majewski, Antonietta Civetti, Ginny Arpino, Rosemary Seibold, Tom McLaughlin, Kathy D'Agostino, Tom Coan, Larry Kessler, Jenifer Suehs-Vassel, Carolyn Herman, Carole McElduff, Ken Donalds, Anne-Marie Carr-Reardon, Fr. John Sassani

Presiding: Anne-Marie Carr-Reardon

Minutes: Carole McElduff

Opening Prayer: Fr. John

Review of April 15, 2010 Minutes:

Rosemary corrected the April 15 minutes to say that she already *has* 5 or 6 new Baptism volunteers. Fr. John said that the plan is to offer the Sacrament of Penance one night a month (similar to Lent), but that has not occurred yet.

Updates for Committees and Ministries:

- The Welcoming Committee had a good turnout at the coffee on May 23. This worked well with the St. Jean's reunion that day. Coffees will begin again in September.
- The Adult Choir has been present extra weeks this Spring. The Children's Choir is finished until September. Kathy will continue to work with some of the kids to do solos this summer.
- Jenifer reported fax contact with our sister parish in Honduras. They have given her possible dates to visit with the plan being to reestablish the connection and to deliver the money raised here for them.
- The search has begun to fill Kara O'Malley's position. First interviews are being done by the parish staff (some in person, some by phone). June 13 is the closing date for applications. Second interviews begin soon. The interview group will include the parish staff, two high school students, and one catechist. Kara will be at Our Lady's through Workcamp. The goal is to have a new Youth Minister in place before this year's Workcamp begins.
- The new PPC members chosen on Pentecost are: Paula Panchuck, Jo-Ann Vergilio, and Anne Banks.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. John reported on a pastoral planning meeting held with members of the Archdiocese and the parishes of Sacred Heart, St. Bernard-Corpus Christi, and Our Lady's. The purpose of this is strategic planning for the Newton parishes. He said that Mass attendance at Our Lady's is highest in Newton. Other areas of the Archdiocese have much lower attendance. He also

reported that the numbers of funerals and weddings is down and there is a slight increase in marriage blessings.

Fr. John also reported that there is a new translation of the Mass beginning on the first Sunday of Advent. There will be a workshop at Our Lady's for this on September 22 and 23. This workshop will be open to all in the Archdiocese of Boston. The new translation is a more literal translation from Latin. There was discussion about the purpose of this change. Worship aids will be changed to facilitate the use of this new translation and make it as easy as possible.

There is water damage to the Adams St. side window of the church. A parishioner with expertise in plastering has offered to fix the damage as a gift to the parish. The parish has to pay to fix the cause of the damage. To that end, the outside has been waterproofed to prevent further leakage. It is hoped that the project will be completed over the summer.

Financial Report:

Andy Majewski reported that the Finance Council continues to spend a large amount of time dealing with the Trinity Catholic High School finances. The school's enrollment is down, but the staff is dedicated to its success. The Finance Council reports a better capacity to deal with the school's financial needs now.

Parish finances are in good shape. The Grand Annual Collection was a huge help in meeting the financial goals. A major cost to the parish is building maintenance. NStar is on board to help the parish increase its energy efficiency and reduce costs.

Issues of Concern:

- The parish received an estimate to add rails going up the steps to the altar. The first estimate was too high so it has gone back for revisions.
- The church floor will be done in November over two weeks. The church will be closed for that project and Mass will be held in the Trinity Catholic auditorium.
- Fr. John's 30th anniversary of his ordination will occur on June 14. The parish will celebrate this occasion at the 10 a.m. Mass on June 13 with a reception following.
- Ministry Night was held on May 24. Approximately 90 people attended with many positive reviews. It is hoped that attendance will be higher next year.
- St. Jean's reunion was held on May 23. It was noted how well that group plus the Hospitality Group and the Welcoming Committee worked together to make the reunion a success.
- There are some scheduling conflicts with Liturgy Meetings and Parish Pastoral Council meetings.
- A request was made to find a lighter colored replacement for the bell table's black cover.

Next Meeting:

The next PPC meeting will be held on June 17. This will be an informal dinner meeting to welcome the new PPC members.