

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
Parish Pastoral Council
May 19, 2011
7:30-9:00pm

Present: Ginny Arpino, Anne Banks, Steve Kern, Kristina Lukach, Carole McElduff, Peter Mooradian, Paula Panchuck, Msgr. Dennis Sheehan, Rosemary Seibold, Jo-Anne Vergilio

Opening Prayer: Msgr. Dennis Sheehan

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the March 31st meeting were approved

Agenda items:

1. Church as community – how to engage parishioners? (Anne Banks and Rosemary Seibold)

- a. Survey distributed to PPC members for review and comments – electronic link as follows: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5968NQX>
- b. Survey created to solicit ideas for, and level of interest in, different activities that could be sponsored at OLH in order to engage parishioners and help strengthen the parish community
- c. Survey targets the following topics:
 - i. Number and ages of household members
 - ii. Level of interest in attending an OLH sponsored event
 - iii. Ideas and suggestions for specific events
 - iv. Time of year and day of week of preferred participation
 - v. Willingness to organize and/or assist in event preparation
- d. Survey to be submitted to:
 - i. All PPC members for online completion
 - ii. All current members of OLH ministries
 - iii. Religious education families
 - iv. E-link also to be placed in the bulletin for accessibility by all parishioners
- e. First scheduled event – 6th Annual Minor League Doubleheader at Fenway Park on Saturday, August 20th

2. Report on the parish youth ministry (Kristina Lukach)

- a. 6-8th Grades:
 - i. Facts/data
 1. 163 students enrolled (80% attendance)
 2. 12 classes (4 classes per grade)
 3. 17 catechists
 4. 6 hall monitors
 5. 21 class meetings

- ii. Tentative goals and directions (currently being formulated)
 - 1. Increase the number of class meetings from 21 to 23 in order to make for a more engaging experience
 - 2. Enlist confirmation candidates (or those already confirmed) as class assistants
 - 3. Topics for more in depth instruction and discussion:
 - a. Our place of worship - the church building and its components
 - b. Our worship service – the mass and its components
 - 4. Restoration of the Middle School Youth Group
 - 5. Creation of a middle school retreat
 - 6. Establishment of a service project that will:
 - a. Facilitate group participation
 - b. Enable reflection on the act of service
 - c. Foster parent participation
 - 7. Improve communication with middle school parents
 - 8. Evaluation of a new textbook (for potential implementation in 2012-13)
 - 9. Suggestions from the PPC
 - a. Consider contacting other churches for innovative ideas regarding service projects
 - b. Possibility for joint projects with other/different faith communities

b. 9-10th Grades:

- i. Facts/data
 - 1. 169 students (85% attendance)
 - 2. 12 groups (~10-12 students/group)
 - 3. 13 group leaders
 - 4. 11 meetings (1 orientation, 5 large group sessions, 5 small group discussions) and the Bristol Lodge service project
 - 5. Retreats (9th – day retreat at OLH, 10th – overnight retreat on the Cape)
- ii. Strengths
 - 1. Dedication and guidance offered by the small group leaders
 - 2. Quality of speakers/presenters
 - 3. Small group faith-sharing
 - 4. Bristol Lodge service project
- iii. Potential future directions
 - 1. Increase time spent in the small group sessions
 - 2. Expand the variety of service projects offered
 - 3. Encourage student reflection on their service projects
 - 4. Require student attendance at mass each week (how to accomplish this?)
 - 5. Encourage more parental involvement in all of the above

3. Selection process for the Vice Chair and for new members of the Parish Pastoral Council (Msgr. Dennis Sheehan)

- a. Vice-Chair
 - i. Chair and Vice-Chair function as the “Executive Committee”
 - 1. Create the agenda
 - 2. Preside over the meeting
 - 3. Set the overall tone
 - ii. Nominations (of self or someone else) should be emailed directly to Msgr. Dennis for consideration – an email to this effect will be distributed separately to all PPC members
- b. General Members
 - i. Four PPC members to be rotating off the Council this spring
 - 1. 2 members to be elected by parishioners
 - 2. 2 members to be appointed by the Pastor
 - ii. Nomination ballot to be included in the weekly bulletin

4. Update on pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Boston (Msgr. Dennis Sheehan)

- a. Current figures from the Archdiocese
 - i. ~350 active priests (predominant age: 60-75 yrs old)
 - ii. 291 parishes
- b. Future projections (for the next decade)
 - i. ~175 active priests serving 291 parishes
 - ii. Trained laity not replenishing themselves in Boston area (secondary to increased cost of living in this region)
- c. Pastoral Planning Committee currently comprised of members of the laity, priests and parish staff
 - i. Future vision is for a collaborative/team approach that will offer a welcoming, stable and faith-filled community to fulfill the various needs of the church (eg. religious education, adult faith-formation and evangelization)
 - ii. In this model, multiple parishes will be served by 1 pastor, 2-3 priests, 1 business manager and 2-3 pastoral associates

5. PPC meeting dates for 2011-2012

September 27th
November 8th
January 10th
February 28th
April 10th
May 29th