

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Pastoral Council

February 28, 2017

Minutes

Attending: Fr. Vinnie, Deacon Franc Tremblay, Mike Jaillet, John Glancy, Kate Mason, Claire Ramsbottom, Nigel Timothy, Lynn Jacobs, Lucie Graveline, Adam Giandomenico. Mark Dudziak, Paddy Favazza

Opening prayer

Claire

Collaborative Update

Fr. Vinnie/All

- Fr. Vinnie made an announcement this past weekend that a decision has been made to appoint Fr. Frank Daly, currently the Parochial Vicar of Gate of Heaven and St. Brigid Parishes and St. Augustine Chapel in South Boston, as the new Pastor of the Our Lady of Sorrows collaborative.
- Fr. Vinnie, who had submitted his name for consideration, circulated a very heartfelt and gracious letter announcing his impending departure on June 1 and the selection of Fr. Daly to lead the collaborative.
- There were several expressions of appreciation to Fr. Vinnie for all he has done for our parish community during this transition following our departure from the first collaborative and how unfortunate for both him and the parish that he wasn't given the opportunity to continue what we have been able to accomplish together to prepare for this next stage and that we all hope that the Archdiocese will acknowledge and consider the sacrifices he has made when making his next assignment. Claire, speaking on behalf of all of the PPC, indicated that the PPC wants to organize an opportunity for the entire parish to express its appreciation.
- There was a general feeling that this surprise announcement derailed what had been initially intended to be accomplished by Fr. Soper and Sister Boyle at the Town Hall Meeting. There was a suggestion that we contact/write them and possibly invite them back. It was noted that we will need to begin to organize to fulfill the requirements of collaborative parishes, which can be different for standalone collaborative of which we are the third such parish (St Mary's in Foxboro and Saint Agatha, Milton). Some of the steps include conducting a survey of the parishioners which will require an updated database and preparing a written plan.
- Fr. Daly did reach out to Fr. Vinnie just after the announcement and expressed that he is looking forward to the assignment. Fr. Daly just recently returned to the ministry after having taken leave to marry and raise a family
- The discussion focused on how we might all prepare for Fr. Daly's arrival, including inviting him to attend an upcoming PPC meeting, spending a Sunday celebrating Mass (possibly offering to have Fr. Clooney or Fr. Spicer cover for Fr. Daly), week day visit with staff, etc. Fr. Vinnie offered to ask Fr. Daly what he would find helpful in the transition when he meets with him.

Liturgy Update

John/ All

- There was a relatively vibrant discussion related to the proposed changes to the way Mass will be conducted during Lent which were announced the previous weekend at Mass. Changes being made include singing Latin/Greek responses, processions with altar servers carrying candles and the lector a cross, and relocating the choir to the elevated area behind the altar in the apse.
- The reaction was a virtual unanimous expression of surprise and frustration with the changes since, given the magnitude, they should have been socialized more broadly. Many noted bluntly that “this is not who we are” and why they and many others have chosen to attend Our Lady of Sorrows. There was a serious concern that such formality could discourage parishioners, just as the PPC has decided to focus on trying to bring the disenfranchised back.
- Fr. Vinnie indicated that the conversation was constructive and allowed him to finalize his decision that minimally the choir would not be moved. It was decided that Fr. Vinnie and John, as the PPC Co-Chairs, would speak with the Liturgy Commission leadership the following evening at Ash Wednesday Mass.

Lenten Mission

Father Vinnie

- Fr. Vinnie explained how the first night of the Lenten Mission would be run, focusing on the role of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The theme of the mission is Growing Community in Christ.
- The PPC members were reminded that they are the host and encouraged to sign up to bring soup and bread (the sign-up sheet was circulated). Teresa has organized the students to bring cookies.

100Days100Dinners

Claire

- Claire announced that she is working with Paddy and Jeannie Sullivan.
- The date is April 23 and they are trying to get a mix of places of worship to send 10 members to the dinner which OLOS would host
- The point of the event is to encourage participants to speak with people they don't know and that might very well have different views.

Social Activities

Father Vinnie

- A brainstorming session was held to throw out some social activity ideas with a focus on individuals pulling together little events.
- The group needs a leader so that Monica doesn't have to do it all.
- An international dinner is in the works closer to summer so it can serve as a fund raiser.
- An Easter egg hunt is being discussed and organized.

Commission Updates

Christian Services

- A Giving Tree for the Evelyn House will have up to 40 tags for items, including Easter plants for the home bound.
- Encouraging parishioners to sign up to visit with the elderly and home bound.

Follow Up to Fr. Clooney's Presentation

- On March 12 the discussion will focus on the changes in the immigration laws and the theological basis for it.
- "The Changing Landscape" by Ellen McSweeney is highly recommended.

Closing prayer

Lucie