

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Pastoral Council

May 3, 2017

MINUTES

Refreshments (Lucie) and Social: 7:15 pm to 7:30 pm; Meeting: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Co-Chairs: John Glancy and Fr. Vinnie Notes by: Paddy Favazza

Check-in (All)

Opening prayer (John)

Holy Week / Easter –reflections (Fr. Vinnie / All)

Many PPC members were away so, unable to provide comments. Those who were here indicated that the choir was awesome/beautiful at the Vigil. Fr. Vinnie said the Holy Week services were wonderful, liturgies beautiful and that everyone did great job. He also indicated that all Masses filled to capacity.

#100Days/100Dinners (Claire/Paddy) Attended by 28 (approximately). Representation from former parishioners and other Sharon community (multigenerational attendance). Good discussions; some individuals indicated that they wanted to do it again and try to expand the circle of people. Claire indicated that a post-survey was sent out and an inquiry to determine if there was interest in another dinner. Rabbi Randy Kafta sent out an announcement that the clergy from all houses of worship in Sharon are hosting a dinner as part of the *Sharon Interfaith Action*. The dinner is May 4 (tomorrow night) with a focus on discussing immigration issues. Jim Robinson (Unitarian Minister) is hosting the dinner. Teresa posted it on OLOS website/Facebook page. Claire expressed interest to have similar dinners (lead by lay persons) and noted that lay persons are not invited to the dinner for religious leaders.

Locking of church doors (John/Paddy) The discussion regarding the locking of the OLOS Church and OLOS facilities was revisited. Fr. Vinnie indicated that the reason some were wanting to lock the church is that the Diocese told parishes to do this, in light of church burnings (in South Carolina) and because of liability concerns. He went on to say that when the issue was brought up to the PPC (over a year ago), there was not agreement among the PPC members and parishioners (reflected in letter from Paddy Favazza) about locking the church. For that reason, Fr. Vinney said that no decision was made to lock buildings but, at the same time, indicated that action was taken [i.e., Jim (maintenance man) installed a key in the box in O'Connell Hall and has begun locking basement in O'Connell and the basement of church.] He also reported that Lynn had found cigarette butts and burning citronella candles in O'Connell Hall. Lynn followed up on this, checking with the AA group, who indicated that these items were not theirs. Several PPC members spoke of their experiences of using the church after hours to pray and the need for a balance – responding to both the security needs *and* the needs of parishioners to go into the

church in the evening hours. Paddy spoke about the need (responsibility) of the PPC members to communicate back to parishioners when issues are raised, reflecting that that communication back to parishioners signals both respect and transparency. Fr. Vinnie indicated that the issue should be tabled/discussed with Fr. Daly when he arrives.

Fr. Vinnie Farewell Party (Claire) Tentative date is May 27 at 5:30 (after 4:30 Mass), place is yet to be determined. Carol G. Philips and Laretta Maslanka (Liturgy Committee) are hosting an organizational meeting on Monday, May 8 to coordinate this event. There will be an announcement in the bulletin. John G. will speak at the event (representing the PPC).

Plans for an event to welcome Fr. Daly (All) No plans yet. He is traveling right after arriving. Someone (John G?) will reach out to Fr. Daly for tentative dates for welcoming him to OLOS. June 1 (Thursday) is his first day; he will be saying Mass that weekend. Some discussion indicating that that first weekend in June may be a good time to have a Welcoming for Fr. Daly (perhaps at the Coffee Hour between Masses since these are already scheduled and Fr. Daly will be here.) John will touch base with Lynn about the date/location after tonight's PPC conversation.

OLOS Commissions Updates (All)

- **Faith Formation (Children):** Hosting listening sessions for Middle School parents, student, teachers about 2 issues: changing the times for Middle School Classes and changing curriculum. They feel that the curriculum is a little "thin", which has prompted them into looking into new curriculum. In addition, they are considering adjusting the class times of middle school; the current times work better for high school by not for middle schoolers. So far, the response to listening sessions has been poor and poorly attended. They hope more (parents, students) will attend the upcoming listening sessions and that the surveys yield good responses. They plan to meet at the end of May to review the survey results and session responses. Listening Sessions are happening with Adult Formation group as well. (Not sure if the focus of these is same/different.)
- **Faith Formation (Adults)** Starting June 4, Fr. Clooney will give a shortened homilies in summer months and the congregation will be invited to stay in church after Mass, to have a follow-up discussion about homilies. In addition, some discussion was had about the summer Mass schedule. Traditionally, in the summer months, OLOS has 2 Masses on Sunday during July and August as many parishioners are away. In the past, the 7:30 am was kept and one other Sunday Mass was held (at 10:30 am) while doing away with the 8:45am and 11 am. Some suggested discussing this with Fr. Daly and depending on priest availability, we could have the second Sunday Mass at either 9:30am or at 10am.
- **Christian Services Commission:**

- Kate reported that OLOS is still collecting new children's books (for 6-month to 5 year olds). This service was spearheaded by Dr. Kitty O'Hare as part of the *Reach Out and Read* (ROAR) program. ROAR provides a new book for each child in ROAR and works with the parents to show them how to read to parents. (Collection lasted 2 weeks).
- Personal Care Kits (travel size toiletries) are being collected again. Last year OLOS gave 90 personal care kits to residents of Evelyn House (Stoughton), who are required to have their own toiletries. OLOS also gave equal number of kits to Hugs (a program for Abused Children & Families sponsored by the Sharon Police). Several PPC members indicated that they have many to donate and will get those to Kate.
- Easter flowers were delivered to OLOS parishioners, starting on Palm Sunday weekend. The flower deliveries were coordinated by Joan Spano. In addition, Mary Ann LaHive delivered 26 Easter baskets to Evelyn House. Nice response from parishioners for both of these efforts. P.Favazza (who delivered some of the flowers) indicated that the recipients requested palms and suggested that future deliveries include palms for parishioners who are unable to attend Palm Sunday in person.
- The Youth Commission taught a Middle School Class about Easter; held an Easter Egg Hunt with links to Scripture, translating Scripture and integrating the Scripture into skits. All of the activities were well received and successful.

All other business or issues (All)

- Question raised by John G. about the movement of choir – will it stay in this position? Most seemed fine with it, except some people commented that the arrangement is a little tight with no room on the right between altar stage and choir chairs. Some people have difficulty when going to communion (drink from the chalice), with the current configuration. Since this time a row has been removed and there is clear passage.

Check-out (All) Fr. Vinnie praised the PPC for meaningful meetings/discussions over the past years and encouraged the PPC to keep at it. Sentiments of gratitude expressed by all for Fr. Vinnie's 2 years at OLOS.

Closing prayer (Christian)

(Last PPC meeting - June 7)

