



Living Water Catholic

HOLY FAMILY PARISH
AMESBURY, MA

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH
SALISBURY, MA

PASTORAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2019

Attendance: Rev. Scott Euvrard, Meredith Smith, Dianne Mills, Ed Mills, Jon Ayres, Kate Ayres, Matt Hale, Bill Cowie, Germaine Koomen, Ruthann Frost, Jen Brown, Joanne, Levesque, Claire Brewer, Ken Steeves

Vocation Team Members present: Doreen DesRosches, Dave Bauxbaum, Dianne Mills, and Rev. Scott Euvrard

Refreshments provided by Claire Brewer: Thank you!

Opening Prayer, provided by Ruthann, was read by all present, followed by brief introductions.

Fr. Scott noted that the Habitat for Humanity build this weekend was a huge success, with 20 people present on site.

Vocations Team:

- Every collaborative must include vocations as a priority in their Pastoral Plan.
- The Team initiatives focus on Prayer, Awareness and Invitation. A handout was provided to those present listing accomplishments and goals.

Prayer:

- Loretta Gallagher centers on praying every day for a seminarian. She also prayed the night before ordination of seminarians for the Priesthood.
- Praying for a seminarian has been added to every Mass and these names are listed in the bulletin for daily prayers by parishioners. Fr. Scott added that we have posted prayers on social media for seminarians.

Awareness:

- Events are spread out evenly through the year. We prayed for Vocations Awareness the first week of November. We collaborated with Hospitality and handed out Rosary beads and prayer cards for parishioners to join in saying the Rosary before Mass. We will do this again on the 4th Sunday of Easter.

- Families can take home boxes to pray for vocations.
- Monday morning holy hour is specifically for vocations.
- Our hope is to encourage prayers for all vocations, priesthood, marriage, sisters.
- Members of our council, Diane and Ed, Kate and Jon have shared their marriage witness with Faith Formation groups.

Invitation:

- Invited high school aged young men to St. Andrew Dinners.
- Invited high school aged young women to Saints Martha and Mary Dinners.
- Collaborated with faith formation and Knights of Columbus to offer a Vocations Breakfast. A Vocational Myth-Buster for Parents handout was provided. "Vocations do grow on family trees". Jen Brown commented that as a parent, the Vocations Breakfast was phenomenal, beneficial and a blessing. Thank you to all who put it together! Matt Hale seconded this. We invited young people and parents. Some are supportive and some are not.
- Vacation Bible School will be offered again this year June 24th – 28th with a vocation theme. Older kids and parents will be helping.
- Fr. Scott said the team has done pretty well. We struggle in the area of leadership. Perhaps because I am on team. I may have to leave it in order to provide guidance to all teams. Will someone lead the World Day of Vocations? We need people willing to take the thing on. It is a big challenge.
- Dianne indicated that everyone is doing only parts. We are not together. We have had very few meetings and are not meeting regularly right now.
- Fr. Scott said that Vocation Directors point to our parish as a model. Some of us have spoken to other collaboratives, i.e. Braintree.

Update on Collaborative Open Positions:

- We have gone two months now without a Business Manager. Christine is coming back on a volunteer basis to make sure all basic functions are running; staff being paid, bank statements balanced... This window is closing very soon. No movement on the open position. The Finance Councils are looking into hiring a part-time facilities manager which is another piece of this job, and per Christine, consumed about 40% of her time, i.e. repairs, cleaning. The Finance Councils may outsource the financial piece.
- Kathy Larsen has left and is working for an orthodontist full time in Newburyport and Peabody. Kathy is carrying through with her weekend duties until May 19th. On that date a thank you celebration is being planned through Hospitality to take place in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 am Mass.

Conversation about crisis/scandals in the church:

- Because of the scandals around the seminaries in our area, the Cardinal has asked for an independent firm to investigate. We have not heard results.
- Cardinal Sean issued a letter at the start of Lent, based on his summary of the meeting of the Bishops in Rome.
- Our church has become a target in the Media, but reporting it is a necessity.

- **It is hard when people come at you about it. We go to church because we love God.**
- **It is a self-inflicted internal wound for the church. Everyone is a sinner, but we hold priests to higher standards.**
- **The cover-up is what people cannot tolerate.**

Closing Prayer, provided by Germaine, was read by all.

Prayers and best wishes were extended to both Jon and Kate Ayers for the impending birth of their first baby. Kate's due date is tomorrow.

Our next meeting will take place on April 28th. We will be joined by members of the Service and Justice Committee as well as a Representative of the Archdiocese, Rosemary Maffei, to observe.

- **Refreshments for April by Ken Steeves**
- **Opening Prayer by Germaine Koomen**
- **Closing Prayer by Bill Cowie**