The meeting was held at the new parish center at Saint Mary’s and called to order at 7:15 pm.

Role call of council members:

Angie McMaster (co-chair)          Ray Wagner                Jessica Hagg (youth)
Cliff Mann (co-chair)              Chickie Rigazio             Paul Therrien
Father Brian Mahoney              Mike Condor                 Peter Lando (absent)
Laura Conte                        Scott Davidson              Julianna Magbonzi (absent)
Matthew Larson (youth) (absent)    Julie Seitter              Karen Drake
Ross Drew (absent)                Lori McDonald (absent)

1) The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Father Brian using the iBreviary phone app.

2) The minutes from the June meeting were approved.

3) With this being the first meeting of the Pastoral Parish Council (PPC) for the 2018/2019 calendar season the group went over the list of parish council members whose terms have either come to end or have stepped down since the last meeting. They were Laura Zatta, Paul Sidari, Matt Pontbriant and Rachel Beechin. Although they were not present, Father Brian wanted to thank these past members, as well as all of the current members, for their service on this council. He then asked that if anyone present who has been on the council for quite some time and is considering stepping down to please notify him this week. He will then go through the list of names who were nominated back in the Spring as potential replacements for all of the open seats.

4) Next on the agenda that was discussed is the formation of a sub-committee whose role would be to keep an eye on the progress of the Pastoral plan developed a couple years ago and give updates at our monthly meetings. A list of proposed names for this sub-committee would be presented during October’s PPC meeting. The main task for this sub-committee would be to bring up a list of upcoming pre-scheduled tasks that are due to be implemented, as well as those that are behind schedule, for Father Brian to review. The role of this sub-committee is not to implement the plan. Karen Drake expressed her concerns about Father Brian having way too much on his plate and that maybe we should consider assigning action items pertaining to this plan to members of the sub-committee and/or the PPC. Father Brian and Julie Seitter explained that the role of the PPC was that it was to serve in an advisory role capacity to the Pastor. The PPC can review the Pastoral plan and give advice on how to move it forward, but should not be doing the work. Paul Therrien suggested that in order to stay focused on the Pastoral plan, one item on the agenda for all upcoming PCC meetings should be related to the Pastoral plan.

5) Karen also suggested that an update be on given on other ‘open’ action items listed on the minutes from the previous month’s PPC meeting, if these items are not listed as a separate agenda item for the next meeting.

6) Father Brian reminded the group again that the solar panel project is on hold until he sees other parishes go through the process first.

7) He then announced that his plan to hire a Pastoral Assistant has been put on temporary hiatus until he sees the financial numbers over the next few months. He stated both parishes are doing financially well but wants to monitor the situation more closely. He did receive the resumes/applications from four interested candidates and will reach out to them. He is hoping that he can revisit this before the end of the year.
8) He also gave an update on the new website Christine Trznadel is developing for the collaborative. It is taking a little longer than expected due to the need to switch from one web development vendor offering to another as there were feature limitations on the first one that was chosen.

9) Angie McMaster asked if there is a way to monitor if the weekly collections have been going down since the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report came out. Father Brian stated that although the weekly offertory figures posted in the bulletin are not reaching the ‘budgeted’ figures, the ‘budgeted’ figures are actually listed as being 5% higher than the last fiscal year. He reiterated his many thanks for the continued generosity parishioners from both parishes have continued to contribute.

10) The outfall of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report was discussed next in much length. Father Brian explained how parishioners were feeling towards this scandal and how sad and disappointed they are once again. It is effecting them in many unique ways. He stated that he is working with Parish staff members in creating listening sessions for the parishioners to participate in. The structure on how this will work is still in the works and will keep us posted to its’ progress. He strongly feels the role of the collaborative in our community is to remain strong and continue to be an engine of evangelization. Many PCC members in attendance had a lot to say. Below are a few comments that were shared:

Julie Sietter emphasized the importance of the continuance of praying in a world which the temptation of evil exists everywhere. Where else but the church will we be able to receive the blessed Eucharist and worship God in the way he should be worshipped. We wouldn’t receive the Eucharist by abandoning the church.

Jessica Hagg gave her opinion on why we remain Catholics. It is because as Americans we can’t control what our government officials always do but remain Americans for the common good of our nation. Neither can we control what the upper echelon of the Catholic Church does but we must all remain true to our faith.

Angie McMaster stated that we should not leave because of the intrinsic acts of evil initiated by some of the people within the church. Catholicism is about Jesus.

Father Brian stated that the Boston archdiocese has put it many checks and balances over the past 15 years and gave an example. In his opinion the Catholic Church will not change for the better from the top of the hierarchy of the church to the bottom but from bottom to top by doing the best we can within each parish community.

Ray Wagner stated that when the first scandal came out 15 years ago, he was going through an extremely hard time in his life and decided to leave the church as well, and became a holiday catholic for the many years that followed. He stated he would not leave the church this time even though he has experienced recent ridicule from those not practicing the faith.

11) It was then announced that Paul Sidari is organizing the celebration of the ‘coast to coast’ Rosary celebration for our collaborative which will be held on October 7th at the Chelmsford town green. **There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday Sept 27th from 7 to 9pm at St. Mary Parish Center for those interested in assisting Paul with this event.** For those who are available to assist Paul but cannot make this meeting, he can be contacted at plsgoirish@hotmail.com.

12) The process for approving how outside donation requests and solicitations (food for the poor, Pregnancy Care Center) are handled in the collaborative was to be discussed next on the agenda but due to the extended length of the current meeting it was decided to carry this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

13) A discussion on going over Chapter 4 (Generosity) of the ‘Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic’ book was also scheduled to be discussed during this meeting, but again, for valid reasons this meeting went ‘a lot’ longer than scheduled.

14) Round Table topics of discussion

Karen Drake asked about how to get any parishioner help who may have just had a catastrophic accident. Father Brian stated that all that needs to be done is for someone to contact him so he can then reach out to the person in need for personnel support and/or direct them to services if need be.

Ray Wagner brought up that he had a lengthy discussion with one parishioner from Saint John’s over the summer who is a daily Mass attendee. She reported to Ray that in her opinion the Sunday masses were too long, some lasting way over an hour. She felt the homilies were longer than they needed to be and that there was too much ‘down time’
between readings, songs, etc. With the shortage of priests Father Brian stated he had to reach outside the parish on many occasions during the summer for assistance. He did critique one priest for having too long of a homily.

15) List of tasks to be completed prior to next month’s meeting
   a) Father Brian to go through the list of names who were nominated back in the Spring for the Pastoral Parish Council as potential replacements for all of the open seats so the new members. He is then to relay these names to Angie McMaster and Cliff Mann so they can notify these potential new members so they can begin attending our meetings in October.
   b) Angie McMaster will either send email or have available at the next meeting the ‘official’ role of the PPC.
   c) All PPC members are being asked to prayerfully consider being on the sub-committee whose goal will be to move the Pastoral plan forward by monitoring ‘due dates’ of the goals and modify with Father Brian if need be.
   d) All PPC members should make sure the IBreviary app is downloaded on their phones. For those who have iPhones, it can be downloaded from the app store via the ‘istore’. For those using other types of cell phones it can be downloaded by going directly to the [www.ibreviary.com](http://www.ibreviary.com) website. This app will not only be an aide in saying our evening prayer but will also help save on the resources used to print these prayers.

Closing prayer was presented by Angie McMaster and offered up for Lori McDonald’s son

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

**Next meeting October 7th, 2018 at Saint Mary’s new parish center – 7 pm**

We are looking for a volunteer who will present the closing prayer

Respectfully submitted

YBIC

Ray Wagner