

Catholic Community of Falmouth Pastoral Council

(“Council” or “CCFPC”)

Notes from Council Meeting – January 21, 2020

1. – Meeting Opening - A meeting of the Council was held on January 21, 2020 in the rectory at Saint Anthony parish in Falmouth, MA. Msgr. Avila opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. – Attendance - Council members present included: Msgr. Stephen Avila, Co-Chairs Steve Johnson and Jim Quinn, Frank Geishecker, Jane Hopewood, Mary Ellen Powers, Mat Baldasaro, Deacon William Hays, Carolyn Malchodi, and Bill Malchodi. Falmouth Deacons present who serve on the Council in an ex officio capacity included Deacon Peter Guresh. Members absent: Bill LaRuffa, Mary Lou Palumbo, Paul DeMeo, Susan Cronin, Ellen Driscoll and Paul April. Deacons absent: John Simonis, Paul Harney and Pat Mahoney.
3. - Secretary/Minutes - The meeting began at 6:05 PM. Bill Malchodi served as Secretary. Minutes from the prior meeting were approved as submitted.
4. - Thanksgiving and Christmas Masses - Msgr. Avila requested feedback on the Thanksgiving and Christmas Masses. Reaction to both special liturgies was very favorable, and generally described as a positive experience of coming together as one Catholic Community at St. Elizabeth Seton. Regarding Christmas Masses, no one building is large enough to hold all parishioners of the three churches. Father had three 4pm Christmas Eve Vigil Masses. He noted an increased attendance at St. Elizabeth Seton attributed to the Children’s Pageant; St. Anthony’s was SRO, and Father was pleased he offered 4pm at St. Patrick’s, also well attended.
5. - Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick - Msgr. Avila described the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick outreach, which priests throughout the Cape Cod Deanery will initiate this coming weekend. The outreach will culminate on February 9, 2020 in a Communal Service at 2 PM at St. Patrick Church. Priests throughout the Deanery have noted that parishioners still generally view this Sacrament as “last rites” to be given at the moment of death. The Church since Vatican II views this Sacrament as an anointing of sick people, intended for the healing and peace of the body and mind. As the ritual provides, the Sacrament is recommended to be celebrated while the patient is conscious and aware of the prayers and support of the faith community which surrounds them. As such, the Sacrament is intended to be administered to those who are seriously ill, about to undergo surgery, suffering a decline in physical and mental health, of advanced age, sick children, and those whose health is impaired by an accident or chronic illness. The February 9th service will be a communal celebration of the Sacrament and be available to all Collaborative parishioners within the expanded scope of the Sacrament and their families. Father Steve anticipates the Sacrament may in the future be similarly offered at other times of the year as well, perhaps for example in conjunction with the feast of St. Luke in October. A flier intended to be included in the upcoming Collaborative Weekly Bulletin was distributed and is attached to these minutes. Carolyn Malchodi will organize volunteers for the event from the three churches. Greeters from all three parishes will be included. Registration is necessary, either ahead of time or at the door on the day of the Sacrament.

6. - Catholic Appeal - Father made mention of the upcoming “Catholic Appeal” (formerly called Catholic Charities). There was discussion regarding the establishment of a single financial goal for the Collaborative rather than individual church goals.

7. - Lent and Holy Week - Msgr. Avila reviewed a draft Lent and Holy Week Mass and Liturgy schedule. The schedule, which is attached to these minutes, includes two Masses at each of our three churches on Ash Wednesday as well as a Youth Prayer Service at St. Patrick. Additional Masses and confession are planned throughout Lent as set forth in the draft schedule. Stations of the Cross are anticipated at all three churches on Fridays during Lent. The Holy Week schedule for the Sacred Triduum on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Saturday Easter Vigil is set forth on the second page of the draft schedule. Easter Sunday Masses will follow the regular Sunday schedule. Chowder and Chat, which has been a regular Lenten lecture series since the 1980’s, will continue at St. Anthony following the Friday Stations of the Cross.

8. - Council Initiatives - The Council discussed: a) obtaining parishioner feedback, b) compiling year to year comparisons on revenue, expenses and Mass attendance, c) consolidating Collaborative administration functions. The Council recognized that the many additional Council initiatives discussed at previous meetings will also be the focus of attention during the coming several years. The Council decided to publish notes from our meetings on the Collaborative website for parishioners interested in Council deliberations.

9. - Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Malchodi