

**St. John the Evangelist  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2007**

**Attendees:**

Father Tom  
Sr. Evelyn  
Ed McCourt  
Kathi Aldridge

Joe Tierney  
Steve Brown  
John Calcio  
Steve Ulian

Peg Creonte  
Sally Miller  
Shane Ecclesine  
Caroline Haughey

**I. Opening Prayer and Reflection**

**II. Acceptance of last month's meeting minutes**

**III. Lay Leadership in the Parish**

Discussion on the role of Lay Persons in future parish leadership roles. The discussion was lead by Sr. Evelyn, and focused on the changes in leadership across the country. Professional, full-time leadership; not volunteer. Several articles had been circulated prior to the meeting to give background on this discussion. Demographics are driving the need to change (all numbers approximate):

~ 18,000 parishes

~ 42,000 priests (~28,000 diocesan priests, 8,000 of whom are retired)

- in the next 20 years, approximately 29,000 priests will be over 75 years old.
- expect approximately 9000 new priest in the next 20 years.

Lay demographics, currently:

~30,000 Lay Parish Ministers

~15,000 Deacons

Boston archdiocese was prepared to do long-term pastoral planning in 1994; never executed. One year ago, our cardinal set up pastoral plan commission to start looking at this issue again. Boston had strong numbers a generation ago, but now is beginning to face the same demographic challenges as other parts of the country.

There was discussion about the complexities involved in trying to replicate the ministries performed historically by parish pastors; and how to involve lay in those ministries. Discussion around the need for lay ecclesiastic training; not just university/administrative training.

#### **IV. PPC Liaisons**

Jane McDaid has offered to server as the liaison with the Parish Finance Council; Fr. Tom suggested that this may be a good way to see how this type of arrangement can help to bridge communication between councils. Ed McCourt volunteered to serve as the liaison with the Parish Service Commission. They will give periodic reports back from their respective boards; going forward this may be expanded to help foster communication.

#### **V. National Voice of the Faithful meeting**

The National VoF organization requested the use of church/school facilities to host their national meeting; the 5-year anniversary of the founding of the group. There was discussion around whether or not to provide facilities for the meeting. All participated in the discussion, and Fr. Tom will take the points raised into consideration.

#### **VI. Save Darfur Request**

The Save Darfur organization requested that our parish participate in their efforts by participation in a group event, allowing their signs to be posted in front of the church, and assisting in the distribution of their materials. Ed suggested that we look into the efforts of Catholic Relief Services and potentially piggyback off of their efforts there.

#### **VII. Information Update**

- **Calendar insert** – Soon to be implemented.
- **Organ update** – Investigating structural issues to ensure that the organ can be supported on the balcony.
- **Chili cookoff** – Event at risk if we do not find a leader/coordinator
- **Parish census** – Update next month

#### **VIII. Eyes and Ears**

Discussion around how loud the vestibule was in the church during Christmas Eve services; was a mix of people there to attend Mass and those there because children were rehearsing for the choir. The suggestion to move choir practice over to Philbin Hall was made; Sr. Evelyn will follow up for planning purposes for next year.