

PPC Report – June, 2015

The Parish Pastoral Committee (PPC) met on June 13th to discuss the state of the parish and subjects that have been raised by parishioners. The topics included:

- Parish Communication
- Ministries
 - Youth
 - Adult
 - Music
- Religious Education
- Parish “Twinning”
- Community Outreach
- Operations

Parish Communication:

There are many wonderful things happening at Holy Trinity Parish and we need to make our community more aware of them. To address this, we will focus on 3 areas:

Parish Website. Over the summer work is planned to enhance our site to make it more user friendly and generally more informative. Existing programs and activities will be highlighted.

Bulletin: Beginning soon the parish bulletin will be sent to each parishioner electronically, no longer via US Mail. Paper copies will also be available in the back of the Church. (Please let Kathy in the parish office in Harvard know if you would like to receive a mailed copy.)

Email Updates: We will use our email “blast” system more, aiming for short, weekly emails, each with 2-4 brief bulleted items for important and timely announcements and reminders.

Ministries:

Youth - The focus of our parish youth activities is our involvement with Camp Sunshine, which is a highly regarded and rewarding program. There are also town programs in Bolton and Harvard that present volunteer opportunities for youth, some with other Christian churches.

There is interest in having more active middle school and teen “Youth Groups” to help our youth feel that they are an important part of our church community. To have a more robust program for our children, volunteers are needed. If you are interested please contact Kathy in the Harvard parish office.

Music – We have a wonderful and active music ministry. Unfortunately, the size of our churches does not allow for our singers and musicians to be in front of the congregation to lead the people in song. Even though the back area is so crowded, when in the front, the musicians spill onto the altar, which is not appropriate. We simply don’t have the space we might like!

Young adults are welcome to participate in the adult choir, and we would also like to have a choir for the young children. Volunteers are needed to make this happen.

Adult Ministries: There is concern about the lack of attention to the schedule for greeters, lectors, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers. We need to better understand this issue.

Religious Education:

We are actively evaluating Matthew Kelley's Confirmation Program with the intent to adopt it if found appropriate for our parish. We will work with the Religious Education ministry to explore the suggestions that parishioners have suggested to enhance our children's experiences.

The capacity of our Religious Education program limits our ability to extend our membership to other communities such as Boxboro. We are limited by both class size and teachers/staff.

We would like to remind parishioners that your participation as Religious Education teachers at any grade would be welcomed! You don't need previous training or education, and there are preparation materials and the support of others to guide you.

Parish Twinning

Twinning is a very worthwhile concept. Fr. Kilcoyne has plans to twin with a Catholic church in Israel, preferably in Bethlehem or Nazareth, where the needs are also great, partly due to persecution. Although Father Julius Bowe from Uganda has been visiting this parish for several years, Holy Trinity is not the only parish that Fr. Julius uses for fund raising.

Community Outreach:

Community Dinners: The Knights of Columbus puts on a well-attended monthly pasta dinner, usually the first Saturday of the month after the 5:00 Mass at Saint Theresa's Deacon Hall. All parishioners (regardless of the Mass they attend) are welcome for dinner, which has a free-will offering. In addition to the pasta dinners, there is always support for anyone who wants to organize a dinner at either church. For example, there have been several "50+" dinners in the recent past.

Parishioner Support: We would like to better support those in our parish who may need help, including those in the "*Please remember in your Prayers*" section of the Bulletin. If you are interested in helping with this type of ministry please contact Father Kilcoyne.

Operations:

Maintenance: Specific needs for the churches are being assessed and repairs are being planned. The central air at St. Theresa's will be turned on before people arrive.

Mass Schedule: We are currently following our summer schedule. In September we will return to a Mass schedule to accommodate the Religious Education program.

Thank you for your continued interest in our parish. Please feel free to contact any of us with additional suggestions for improving our wonderful community.

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