

St. Mary's Parish  
 Task Force Pastoral Planning Meeting  
 March 31, 2019 2PM-4PM

Rev. Msgr. John J. Oliveira and Rev. Daniel Lacroix opened the meeting at approximately 2:20PM. General information was presented. Fr. Daniel Lacroix led the opening prayer.

There were 70 members of the Parish Community in attendance. The goal for determination of our final plan has been set for July 11, 2019.

The 15 members of the St. Mary's Parish Pastoral Task Force were introduced:

*Derek Arruda, David Beaulieu and Susan Beaulieu, Joseph Castelo, Melissa Cieto, James and Jacquelyn Collins, Cristina Farland, Lynn Kuczewski, Rev. Daniel Lacroix, Peggy Lenihan, Rita Medeiros, Ricard Rezendes, Jennifer Simon and Marco Spinelli.*

Msgr. Oliveira, our representative for special counsel, spoke about our "home". The Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, Bishop of Fall River, would like the North End Pastoral Planning Team to decide on demographics for the future of our 3 churches and the city of New Bedford. The three parishes involved in our task force planning include: St. Mary's Parish, Our Lady of Fatima Parish and St. Joseph-St. Therese Parish.

Reasons for collaboration include that there are less people attending church offering their parish support and that future predictions are for 80 parishes with only 50 priests in our Diocese.

Ministries of each parish to consider are listed as follows:

Eucharistic Ministers	RICA	St. Vincent DePaul
Lectors	Faith Formation	Youth Group
Altar Servers	Funeral	Mailing Team
Baptismal Preparation	Musicians/Choir	Spiritual Life Team
CLOW	Pro-Life	Vacuum Team
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Ushers/Greeters	

Recorded sacramental statistics dating back to 2016 were presented by David Beaulieu, Director of Faith Formation of St. Mary's Parish:

Sacrament of Baptism:	Confirmation	Marriage
2016-13	2016-17	2016-3
2017-12	2017-29	2017-8
2018-14	2018-22	2018-3
2019-14	2019-20	2019-4
		(2020)-2

Anointings/ Care One Rehabilitative Center			
2016-11/ 80	2017-19/ 81	2018-14/ 12	2019-3

Joseph Castelo offered some financial information. He stated that the new church building was constructed 30 years ago. Over the past several years our church has had repairs amounting to \$300,000-\$400,000. Future repairs which will have to be contracted include roofing for the school gym and new windows. For the church and rectory new boilers and a new fire alarm panel. Weekly collections are stable.

Marilyn Blanchette, facilitator of the Catholic Foundation Task Force, was introduced and spoke regarding the mission of the Church and our faith. She explained that we need a plan to grow and unite as Catholics in the City of New Bedford. We need to partner with our parishes and strengthen our ministries.

Our Bishop's hope is to unite to avoid closing any one of the three North End parishes. We will have to develop a common administrative structure with each parish remaining on its own. This would include 1 Pastor and 1 Administrator along with a Pastoral Associate and new staffing structure.

The Pastoral Planning Task Force will form 6 planning teams. Volunteers are needed to work on each team.

The six ministry teams are:

- Worship and Sacraments
- Adult Formation
- Youth Formation
- Evangelization
- Common Outreach
- Administrative

Our Kickoff meeting will be held on April 25, 2019, at Bishop Stang High School. It will be a general session including members of all three parishes. Those in attendance will determine, if able to volunteer, which team they would like to participate on.

Rev. Daniel Lacroix led the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Lopes  
Jacquelyn Collins  
Pastoral Planning Team

