

From the Pastor's Desk:

In our last Pastoral council meeting we looked at a number of possible ministerial options that have been suggested, and also some options for our currently unused properties. We agreed to continue to gather information. As a result of one of those information gathering activities I went to prison ... hold on, I meant for a visit! I met with Deacon Philip Devine, the Catholic Chaplain of the North Central Correctional Institution here in Gardner, to discuss options for the parish to be involved in prison ministry. We also had a preliminary meeting with many of our high school Religious Education students about forming a leadership group of youth and adults to begin youth activities and ministry. Help with this is being offered by students from W.P.I. (spearheaded by our parishioner Jamison LaRoche who is a student there).

There has also been discussion of the need to provide a more coordinated care to our elderly, ill, and homebound parishioners. There are a number of individuals who do provide such care, but a coordinator is needed. If you or anyone you know is interested in being the coordinator for this "Pastoral Care" ministry please let me know (by phone, or e-mail).

Some of you may already be aware that Christian Orobello will be leaving as Business Manager of the parish in mid-October. Please join me in thanking him for his service and praying for his future happiness and success. Filling this vacancy will provide an opportunity to restructure the parish office and alter some positions and their responsibilities. I will be discussing with Pastoral Council in our next meeting how to develop a structure that will support us to grow as a parish.

Please continue to pray, as I do every day, for us to follow the call of the Lord faithfully. The more we can all love each other, and work together in the vineyard, the more authentically we all share at the table of the Lord as one family. All of this helps to bind us together despite any past divisions, hurts, or differences we feel; all of this helps us to move forward as a parish together.

God's peace be with you.

Fr. Steve