

Minutes of the Parish Council,

December 8, 2014

Present: Father Drea, Chris Cassani, Angela Jones, Martin Etcheverry, Margarita Fenn, Carlos Diaz, Leslie McCarthy, Bill Sullivan, James Lee, Jim McClone, Jim Perrine, Dick Peisch, Jill Fallon

Pastor's report

Christmas in Harvard Square, the “international debut” album of the Boys’ Choir has been a great success, receiving rapturous reviews for its beauty and bringing acclaim to the Choir School and recognition to the parish. A half-hour show on the boys, the choir school and choir director John Robinson was repeated four times as WGBH-TV raised money before Christmas and one presenter remarked she never knew such beauty existed right in our own backyard. That publicity contributed to a sold-out Christmas concert of more than 600 from around the New England area. One Connecticut woman asked how often do the boys sing and a choir parent replied, they sing for free every Sunday at the 11am Mass and the Connecticut woman remarked that she might have to come back to the church then.

The recording company, Aim Higher on the Decca label sponsored a media tour to New York City where 16 boys recorded live sessions for Radio Sirius, Good Morning America and Fox and Friends. Nicole and Phil Haughey, Harvard alumni, organized a concert at the Harvard Club where the boys sang in Harvard Hall before a giant Christmas tree and an audience of 75. While they stayed overnight in Ridgewood, New Jersey, the boys were able to tour Rockefeller Center, NBC Studios and visit FAO Schwartz.

The **Offertory Appeal** concluded with a number of new commitments and a sizeable bequest from a parishioner, of which \$10k went to the operating budget and the balance to the endowment. A report on the appeal is due in January.

The new giving kiosk suffered several outages which were traced to the janitor using the same outlet which apparently trips the kiosk off.

Plans for the Champagne **New Year's Day Brunch** after the 11 am Mass were discussed and hopes expressed that it would be as lovely an event as it has been in the past.

A few parents have discussed the possibility of a video simulcast of the 11 am Mass to be shown in the kids’ room. There is grant money from Our Sunday Visitor for equipment. Fr. Drea will speak to Fr Reed of Catholic TV to discuss the possibility and the challenges of such simulcast.

Talk of a **Spring Parish Picnic** event led to discussion about greater sharing among those parishes in the Cambridge vicariate about times of Mass and confession and planned feasts. We are in the Central Region, Group IV headed by the Very Rev Walter A Carreiro, Pastor of St Anthony of Padua (Portuguese) in Cambridge, along with St Anthony, St Benedict, St Clement, St Joseph, St Catherine and St Ann, all in Somerville;

St Anthony in Allston, St Columbkille in Brighton, St John, St Peter, St Anthony, St Francis, St Mary and Sacred Heart, all in Cambridge.

Meeting adjourned and was followed by an Advent/Christmas reception for the PPC in the rectory.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Fallon, Recording Secretary