

July 3, 2016

Third Verse...

Peace to you all.

We leave our regularly scheduled programming for this bulletin announcement... This past Wednesday marked the second anniversary of my arrival here. As we begin this third year, Bishop da Cunha has officially named me “pastor” which will be formalized for the parish at the 4pm Mass on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The designation of pastor ‘normalizes’ our parish situation and allows for all of the structures that are part of that.

The two ‘structures’ that will be most affected by this are the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee. These bodies are consultative to the ‘pastor’ and are associated with his specific ministry. By law, they are dissolved when a pastor leaves and may be reconvened by the incoming pastor or reformulated altogether. However, an Administrator does not have this same authority. This is now, no longer an issue.

Bishop da Cunha has also asked us to begin to reorganize the structure of how our ethnic communities are connected/associated with the “Parish”, beginning with the Brazilian Community. With Fr. Edivar’s transfer to Martha’s Vineyard, there was an opportunity to begin this right away. His replacement, Fr. Paulo is no longer considered chaplain/technical assistant in residence, but parochial vicar. The financial administration of the Brazilian Community, while remaining distinct, has been absorbed by the Parish (similar to the arrangement with the traditional Latin Mass Community).

In light of this, not only am I reforming the consultative bodies of Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, but they will be including new representation from the Brazilian Community. In point of fact, the Finance Committee never ceased to convene, but will be significantly reconstituted, too.

Once these bodies have convened, we can begin working on bringing into fruition a (Strategic) Plan for our Parish as we move into the future. There are many projects that are in various stages of planning and/or completion already. I look forward to what we can accomplish together under this new situation.

Though the times of encouragement and discouragement, all the Lord asks of us is Faith and a willing heart. As the Year of Mercy continues, let us pray that we cooperate well with His vision of the presence and example that we are to be in the greater Barnstable area for which we are responsible.

May He bless you abundantly,

*Fr. Michael*