

## St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council March 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Chairperson STEPHEN LUNSFORD Vice Chair AURORA FRAGOZO-AGUIRRE, CARLENE HESS, ANN HENNESSEY, TONY HOCK, STACY McCARLEY, MICHAEL SILVA, AMELINA MENDOZA, CAROL AIVAGEDIS Excused: DEB BRYANT, JEFF ECKER, ELISEO GARCIA

Ex Officio in attendance: Pastor Father RODOLFO LLAMAS Excused: Father BONY ARACKAL, Father PAT LEE, Sister NANCY McINERNEY

Also attending this meeting in accordance to Pastor Fr. Llamas' wishes in Ex Officio capacity: Janet Brabender, Office Manager.

### Opening Prayer and Reflection (led by Janet Brabender)

Volunteer for next meeting: Aurora Fragozo-Aguirre

### Pastor's Report (Fr. Llamas)

Fr. Llamas extends his apologies for delaying our meeting for one week due to his engagement with Bishop Soto, and thanks all that kept him and his family in prayer during the illness of his sister and death of his mother.

The Mariachi Festival that had been discussed with Council last year has been planned for Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00pm – 8:00pm. The Chair will be Vicente Rosas, and the tickets will be pre-sold after each Mass starting this coming Sunday. Vicente will also be speaking at all the Masses to announce this event and to ask for volunteers. The Knights of Columbus will be handling and running the refreshment bar.

-Mike Silva comments that it doesn't sound as though the English community have much chance to merge in this endeavor.

At some point there will be a raffle held to support our parish with the prize being framed religious artwork previously purchased by the parish for \$200.00.

Fr. Llamas is asked about the specifics for his plan to enshrine Our Lady of Guadalupe in the area by the side chapel (old cry room). No real specifics are given except that the Spanish community volunteers have been preparing and selling food after the Spanish Mass to raise money for this project.

-Carol interjects that the Art and Environment Committee and the community at large should be consulted regarding any major renovation and that she had understood that only the Our Lady of Fatima statue with the three children on the outside of the building would be affected. She suggested that Fr. Llamas confer with these two groups to see what is in the best interest of all before any concrete decision be made.

-Tony Hock comments that he feels the English/Anglo community is not being represented.

-Fr. Llamas replies that OLOG represents all of America, not just Mexico, and that he had educated all in the community during the Advent season in his homilies and with the shrine in the sanctuary at that time.

-More comments that OLOG took precedence of two of the Sundays in Advent and that her shrine was disproportionate for the scale of the sanctuary and being almost as tall as the Corpus of Christ of the Crucifix, several thought it was made too big and a distraction from the Eucharist celebration, while in comparison the Crèche/Nativity was much more in scale, humble, and an enhancement in relation to the overall Advent decorations.

#### Finance Council Update (Carlene Hess)

Carlene announced that in their last meeting the FC prepared a statement of financial concerns regarding our parish that they would like to present as an announcement after each Mass starting this coming Sunday. They feel the statement reflects their immediate financial concerns and that it fulfills their mission of being transparent.

Carlene passes out the proposed statement.

-Ann Hennessy commented (regarding the statement passed out) that she liked the idea of inviting volunteers to replace some of the paid services.

-Tony Hock offered that the church staffing is very much the same that it was years ago when Monsignor O'Connor was Pastor and when our community was in a cycle of growth, and that now even with the decrease in community and contributions that these positions are still needed and that they should be considered as persons and parishioners, not just dollars to be saved. Another idea was to explore other avenues to save money, such as an idea he had heard through our former Pastor Fr. Peter Bosque regarding replacing our parking and outside lighting to L.E.D., this small measure has saved his new parish quite a lot of money.

-Janet Brabender replies to staffing concerns;

that the parish staff has only grown by about ½ position since Msgr. O'Connor was present,

that when our last maintenance person died (Ken Stone) that we added 2 part-time positions, and that one would be leaving soon,

that Sr. Nancy was willing to reduce her hours from 40 to 20 if necessary,

that the Music Ministries would be receiving a letter stating that music rehearsals will no longer be a paid service,

and that asking for volunteers to replace staff would create even more work for the existing staff due to continuous training of new volunteers, coordinating, etc.

-Janet also offers that each ministry and organization that has previously received an expense budget would be asked to fundraise for themselves.

-Mike Silva offers an economic perspective personally related to his Elk Grove business experience; he thinks that Elk Grove people now have more disposable income (an upswing), and that announcements after Masses encouraging parishioners to give a little more (say \$5.00 or the cost of that Starbuck's) would have a great impact if reminded often, not just one basic statement once a year.

More on the F.C. presentation statement...

-suggestions made to revise with stewardship emphasis, clarification that we still owe \$400,000.00 for Saint Maria Gorreti Parish fund, etc.

Carlene give deadlines as to when the F.C. will approve their final presentation, March 13th.

#### Action Items (Steven Lunsford)

Review and approval of February Meeting Minutes

---Action: Approved

Review and approval of January Meeting Minutes with adjustments.

---Action: Approved

#### Minutes Procedure

Stated on Agenda March 2011; **IV.c. Minutes Procedure**

1. The council secretary will send the minutes to the Chair and Vice Chair for review and revisions within 1 week of the meeting. This will facilitate the work on Action Items and completion of any revisions prior to the next meeting.
2. When the revisions are completed, the full Council Meeting Minutes will be sent to all Council Members.
3. If additional revisions are requested by council members, the minutes will be modified by the secretary, who will then repeat step 2.
4. When the council approves the minutes at the next meeting, the secretary will send the Council Minutes and the Bulletin Minutes to the parish office Nez Lourence.

---Action Items

-February Minutes revised to exclude all parishioners' names that are not Council Members; all following Minutes will follow this procedure.

-Meeting Minutes after final processing will then be added to our vestibule bulletin board and website for viewing.

PPC Applications (Steven Lunsford)

All agreed current application was satisfactory.

---Action Items

-To publish an invitation for parishioners to apply for St. Joseph Parish Council Member in bulletin.

-To publish names of existing SJPPC Members in parish bulletin as stated in By-Laws.

PPC Relationship to the Parish Finance Council and Fr. Llamas (Steven Lunsford)

As per the lengthiness of this topic, discussion postponed due to late hour.

Second Collection History and Status (Steven Lunsford)

Emails between PPC and FC in Agenda reviewed regarding previous action item "PPC Chair to contact FC Chair regarding 'second collection subcommittee plan for our parish.'"

-Janet Brabender explained how our fundraising idea for second collections to the Capital Improvement general fund "Spare Change" created a restricted fund, and that the required percentage that our Diocese receives would be impacted. A procedure to implement this correctly in bookkeeping would be to; specify a specific need and to create a separate account to be deposited and then taken out of in order to track separately and Diocese percentage could be tracked accurately.

---Action Item; Fr. Llamas to discuss this with Bishop Soto's office.

-Mike Silva offers many reasons he thinks that we should actively consider this second collection plan, and has many ideas to implement procedure if approved.

-More discussion regarding prioritizing spending needs, more roofing and repair issues, and with the new liturgical changes liturgical materials will need to be purchased.

Parish Communication Survey Summary (Ann Hennessey)

As follows from report to Chair in Agenda;

The parish communication survey was conducted at all Masses during the weekend of Jan. 29-30. A total of 1,162 people responded.

- Across all ages and Mass schedules parishioners preferred to get their news through the bulletin.
- This was followed by receiving news delivered from the pulpit at the end of Mass.
- The parish website is not currently a preferred means for getting news about the parish.

Why this is so is beyond the scope of this survey, but this is an area that should be explored as the website is an economical method of delivering news to a large group of people quickly.

An interesting side note of the survey is that the vast majority of respondents are in the 40-50 and 60-plus age groups. A great deal of council meeting time has been devoted in the past two years to discussions regarding the establishment of a young adult ministry. The results of the survey would seem to indicate the council would better serve the parish by:

- encouraging the formation of a family ministry and
- offering ministries or services targeting seniors and the elderly.

#### Recommendations:

1. Council review and approve the survey findings, create an action plan, and direct the Communications Subcommittee to publish these in the bulletin.
2. Recruit ministry leaders for a family ministry, a health ministry (if one does not currently exist), and a senior ministry with the ministry working with Fr. Llamas to determine its mission and focus.
3. Create a technology subcommittee to:
  - a. work with Nez on ways to market the parish website and encourage parishioners to submit news for publishing on the website, and
  - b. explore the cost, logistics, etc. of setting up an e-mail system to release information and manage a parish-wide Facebook page.

Ann Hennessey gives overview of her report; all think it's very informative and will be a useful tool for upcoming communications to parishioners.

#### Parishioner's email to PPC regarding fundraiser (Steven Lunsford)

This parishioner is working on ideas for social activities for our parish and suggests a fundraiser called "Late Night Catechism," that she had attended at another parish. She states that this event generated \$12,000.00, but the speaker's fee would be \$4,000.00.

-Most are in agreement that our parish is not in a position to spend money on an event that we cannot guarantee a return profit on, and we do not have the upfront funds to spend.

---Action; Chair to respond to email.

### Parishioner's email to PPC regarding new Ministry (Steven Lunsford)

The Ministry idea being offered was to invite special needs parishioners to a social gathering weekly with the use of one of our classrooms. Anyone who wanted to participate would be welcome including people with aging issues and their families and caregivers.

-The leader of our parish's SVDP Society was also contacted and responded through email. They liked the idea but wondered if their organization would be the one to contact, and had concerns of who would be able to lead this as coordinator.

-The original parishioner that suggested the idea responded and was clear that they might support and start this endeavor but that their time was too limited to be the leader for this group.

-Most Council thought this was a good idea.

### Roundtable Discussion

Time not available for discussion.

### Next Meeting; Tuesday April 12th

Time not available for discussion.

### Next Hospitality Weekend; Palm Sunday April 16/17

Time not available for discussion.

### Action Items for next meeting

Time not available for discussion.

### Closing Prayer and Dismissal