

St. Joseph Pastoral Council Minutes

Nov. 22, 2011

Special Meeting

Present: Jeanne Ecker, Neil Chapman, Mike Silva, Tony Hock, Marie Pittman, Amelina Mendoza, Mary Carrillo, Stephen Lunsford, Fr. Llamas, Ann Hennessey, Aurora Fragozo-Aguirre, Dennis Zanardi

Absent: Stacy McCarley, Deb Bryant, Carol Aivagedis, Sr. Nancy McInerny

Proposed Chapel Project: Fr. Llamas addressed the council, telling members that he felt disrespected by some at the chapel informational meeting. Fr. Llamas said he is open to being challenged by the council, but not in public as it undermines his authority as leader of the parish. He also stated that the Diocese has said he does not need the council's approval as it is an advisory body only, and that he plans to continue to research the chapel project. He plans additional meetings with parishioners.

The council discussed Fr. Llamas' comments, focusing on how Father gathers input, whether the chapel is or should be a parish priority, perceived segregation of ethnic groups within the parish, assimilation into American culture, whether the Spanish Mass should continue, and whether Masses and Faith Formation classes could become bilingual.

Fr. Llamas said, "Unity is not uniformity." Being Catholic means people can express their spirituality in different ways, but with the same goal in mind, and in the same spirit, he said. He gave the example that Roman Catholicism includes various religious orders, but the Church is not divided.

Mary Carrillo said she researched past council minutes at the request of the Finance Council and discovered Fr. Llamas had presented the chapel project to the council before acting on it. Tony Hock stated that, to the best of his memory, the chapel project was mentioned only in passing, and that Fr. Llamas simply said that he was thinking of hiring an architect to talk about expanding the sacristy to make the space more usable by pushing out the wall, and maybe making changes to the chapel. Mary Carrillo said the Finance Council approves the project because money is being raised to cover the expense.

Tony Hock, Mike Silva, and Jeanne Ecker urged Fr. Llamas to seek additional input by inviting all parishioners to attend the informational meetings through bulletin and Mass announcements.

Parish Priority Plan: Tony led discussion and action which resulted in a revised parish survey on parishioner's wants and needs, and a timeline for completing the survey. In addition to agreeing on a revised survey and the format of the survey, the council reached consensus on:

1. Surveying parishioners during Mass the weekend of Dec. 3-4, and using Survey Monkey to give parishioners the option of responding online.
2. Survey will be translated into Spanish as well.
3. Tony Hock's wife, Lisa, who is a Sacramento State professor with expertise in surveying, has agreed to compile the results of the survey.
4. Rescheduled the January meeting to Jan. 3, and cancelled the Jan. 10 meeting to speed up the planning process.
5. Cost of copying the survey will be covered by Parish Council's budget.

The timeline agreed upon by parish council members is as follows:

- Tony Hock will type up the revised survey and distribute to all council members by Nov. 23, 2011.
- Aurora Fragozo-Aguirre will translate the survey into Spanish by Nov. 28, 2011.
- Fr. Llamas will give the timeline to Kecia Vitorelo and ask her to calendar the events by Nov. 28, 2011.
- Aurora Fragozo-Aguirre will ask Kecia Vitorelo to order four more parish council workbooks for new members. No deadline was set for this task.
- Survey will be distributed during Masses Dec. 3-4, 2011. Announcements will be made during Mass to explain the survey. Tony Hock said he would write an announcement for use at the following Masses.
 - 4:30 p.m., Saturday: Amelina Mendoza
 - 7:30 a.m., Sunday: Maria Pittman
 - 9 a.m., Sunday: Jeanne Ecker
 - 10:45 a.m., Sunday: Tony Hock
 - 1 p.m., Sunday: Fr. Llamas
- Parish council will draft a mission statement on Dec. 6, 2011.
- Lisa Hock will complete survey coding and Tony Hock will distribute results to council members by Dec. 9, 2011.
- Parish council will draft goals on Jan. 3, 2012.
- Further date setting was postponed to give the council time to assess how these activities are progressing.

Finance Council: Mary Carrillo reported the Finance Council is reviewing the landscape contract to determine whether the parish can obtain a better price.

Roundtable: Dennis Zanardi said the council needs to explain to parishioners to which entities they should address their concerns, e.g., lighting and parking issues. He also said he would like to see a parish boys and girls club that could counter gang enrollment. Fr. Llamas said he would like to see a focus on vocations as well.

Fr. Llamas said the parish will soon be responsible for its own pre-Cana requirements and must address that need.