

Santa Catalina Pastoral Council Meeting February 23, 2016

Called to Order: 7:00 PM

Attendees: John Elofson, Keith Kleppe, Joe Liske, Ginny Pergantis, Diana Larroque, Camilo Gotay, Pam Gomez

Introduction of New Members: Joe Liske, Camilo Gotay, Pam Gomez

Approval of Minutes: November Meeting

Discussions:

Signage: The current Santa Catalina Parish sign off of Oracle is now partially covered by the wall that was built. When the sign was installed it was built with flexibility to elevate the sign. At some point the sign will be raised and an additional sign will be placed at the south entrance. No estimated completion date.

St. Vincent de Paul: Joe Liske updated us on our St. Vincent de Paul council. Ours is fairly active. Due to lack of funding from other St. Vincent de Paul councils, we help individuals from Tucson to Mammoth. There are 16 volunteers here, 2 are snowbirds. St. Vincent de Paul donations have dropped since 2012. They suspect this may be because parishioners are directing donations to some of the other ministries but don't know for sure. We are still a generous parish.

St. Vincent was originally started to help with emergency situations. In the last few years the organization has started to look at systemic changes to help people work their way out of poverty. The "Getting Ahead in a Getting By World" program is intended to help stop the cycle and is funded entirely by donations. The first 16 week program held in Tucson had 16 investigators and 13 completed the course. They are referred to as investigators, not students. Their children are taken care of and provided with meals so there are no outside impediments. Once they go through the course they have a mentor for a year. Another program was started the first week in February. Participants are found through various parishes. We helped support the first class with funding.

Our council is heavily involved in the daily activities of the community. Other areas of involvement are: the bread ministry which entails picking up and delivering bread obtained from grocery stores and helping with housing/rents and utilities. Electricity expenses can be 60% of a household's income. The needs in our area have recently been impacted by mine closures. The St. Vincent de Paul society donated \$1500 to the tri-community food bank. We helped provide tuition to 6 families/13 children at San Miguel High School. This enabled families to put food on their table. The students have to maintain good grades and they have to work. Families pay a minimum tuition. The graduation rate is 97%.

Road Completion: Oracle Road construction is complete for now. This summer they will re-coat the road and finish the medians.

Knights of Columbus:

Mardi Gras Event: This was the first one held. It was a “learn as you go” process but successful. Approximately 130 tickets were sold. Those gambling with play money were enjoying themselves. The food was very good. The silent auction raised \$1500. Proceeds from this event will go towards vocations.

St. Patrick’s Day Party: The St. Patrick’s Day event is coming up. It is always a lot of fun, affordable, and the food is good. One of the auction items is dinner for 10 with the Redemptorists at Picture Rocks. 100% of these proceeds go back to the parish.

Fourth Degree Knights: They are doing a good job of raising money for the memorial and flag pole and should make their goal. It has not been determined where the memorial/flag pole will be placed on the property.

Bi-Lingual Mass: The second Mass was held 2/21. When the Spanish Mass first started there were as many as 300 in attendance. Recently there were 60 – 100. In addition to get away from segregation and bringing us together as a community, it is getting harder to find a Priest that can say Mass. Some parishioners have heard those who want to hear Mass in Spanish are going to St. Christopher’s. Camilo thought there were a few more Spanish speaking people at the 2nd Mass. It was felt we need to give the bi-lingual Mass time.

Easter Masses: Since Fr. Larry was ill and not in attendance we did not discuss this.

Good of the Parish (Around the table):

- The Knights/Social Awareness ministries may want to work closer together. John mentioned Fr. Larry is looking at how we may better align and possibly create new ministries that may fill some gaps.
- When a meeting is cancelled last minute, please notify via email and phone call
- Patio is nice gathering place. Maybe have cultural food events hosted there (i.e. Italian, Filipino, German, Mexican etc.) No real discussion on this item.

Meeting Adjourned - 8:07

Next Meeting – Tuesday – March 22nd – 7:00 PM