

Pastoral Council Meeting – February 28, 2017

Attendees: Fr. Larry, Diana Larroque, John Eloffson, Sally Sample, Camilo Gotay, Steve Chavez, Pilar Dougall, Pam Gomez

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM

Opening Prayer: Father Larry

January Meeting Minutes Approved

Young Adult/Family Ministry Update – Pilar Dougall attended our meeting to give us an update on her progress along with ideas she has for this ministry. She pulled a report from our updated Parish database and found there are approximately 200 parishioners in the 18 – 40 age range. This list includes both active and inactive members. She is going to do some more analysis and help determine what constitutes inactive members. She will be doing a mailing to the individuals in this group advising them of events and the ministry. We are not sure how many of the younger adult males or females actually read the bulletin. We suspect mothers may read it more frequently so they are going to be the initial focus. Some of the planned activities are: monthly book club; cooking class series in the summer months; ladies night out and ladies night in; another family night out in July; Diamondbacks game with chartered bus; workshops geared toward younger generation (i.e. seminars on bullying, internet access.) Stacy Pincus has offered to assist with the cooking classes (30 minute meals/crock pot/dessert) along with Diana Larroque (Mexican food) and Camillo (Caribbean food).

Sally Sample has joined the Pastoral Council. She is representing the Social Awareness Ministry. That group now has over 30 members. They recently sponsored a team from the Republic of Congo and have been busy getting them settled in their new environment. They are working with this family of 11 to get settled in their apartment and educate them on the basics we take for granted. They lived in a tent for many years. The husband was a farmer. They do receive a small stipend for a few months. Once this goes away the ministry is looking ahead at ways they can continue to help this family. The fund raiser for Sister Jose netted approximately \$31,000. There have been a lot of resources donating their time and talents to the center. The Jewish Federation is doing outside landscaping, firefighters have helped, someone donated an oven. It has been very positive.

The fire system now works. Still waiting to get the jockey pump fixed.

New envelopes were mailed and quite a few were returned. We are going to start encouraging electronic donations which eliminates the need for envelopes and saves even more money.

The Our Lady of Perpetual Help events were well received. Monday night was particularly special. Father Larry received feedback that it would be nice to have an ICON instead of a picture in the church. Father Larry has a few options to explore and the cost would not be significant.

Annual Catholic Appeal program has begun and donation envelopes have been mailed.

Sound system board is still on order. We did have a glitch at one of the Sunday Masses but a piece of the sound system was accidentally turned off.

This will be a relatively quiet Lenten season. Penance service for the congregation will be held Wednesday, March 29. We coordinate our dates with surrounding parishes. There will be one baptism and two confirmations this year on Easter Saturday. Stations of the Cross will be held in the garden at 5 PM followed by a meal of soup and bread at 6 PM. The exception to this time is the Teen's Interpretation being held March 3rd in the Church at 7 PM with soup and bread being served at 6 PM.

We were approached by Lighthouse publishing about putting together a monthly parish magazine. It would have been no cost to the Church. We found out that our contract with the bulletin company does not allow us to have any competing magazines so we will not pursue this. On a separate note, our bulletin is getting better and better and is the one J.S. Paluch Co. showcases when approaching other churches.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held March 11. As of our meeting date there were around 20 tickets left. There will be no host/Irish beer and wine along with traditional meal of corned beef, cabbage and boiled potatoes. Should be a fun evening with raffles and an auction.

The Cinco de Mayo committee will be meeting the week of March 6th to start planning for the event.

The Parish has grown from around 1,000 members to 1,600 members over the past six years. There has not been a lot of influx in the 1,600 number with all the ins and outs. Newer retirees do not appear to be attending Mass but the Catholic Church is not the only Church having this issue. The Parish does have more activities now than we had in the past and this helps keep people engaged.

Fr. Larry thanked the council for their time and input. It helps keep him informed. We thanked Fr. Larry for agreeing to stay with us 6 more years.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM