

Pastoral Council Meeting – April 25, 2017

Attendees: Fr. Larry, John Elofson, Joe Liske, Ginny Pergantis, Pam Gomez, Steve Chavez, Sally Sample, Alphonso De La Riva, Diana Larroque, David Cathcart, Lupita Parra, Carolyn Sherwin, Judy Lynch, Michael Bubla

Meeting called to order: 7:02 PM

Opening Prayer: Father Larry

Reviewed and approved minutes from March 28 meeting.

Lupita Parra, Youth Ministry Director, gave us an update. She has been doing youth ministry for 15 years now and this is her 4th year here. It takes time to build a program and we are hoping for better participation next year. The curriculum is set based on a youth program developed in Mesa. Their focus is scripture/social/service. The youth are dedicated. The Passion Play was well received as was the root beer float fund raiser. It is hard to engage teens due to the dynamics of the Parish and it is not always a priority for parents. We have 5 teens going to Steubenville this summer. We had 8 students Confirmed this year. We are doing a better job of keeping them engaged once they are Confirmed. Attendance is low in the summer due to vacations or teens spending summer with remote parents or grandparents. It would be nice to see the Parish more engaged in youth activities. We had around 40 parishioners attend the variety show. It was suggested we try to find a way to put them in front of the community more often. Possibly have them periodically be a greeter or lecturer at a Mass other than 5 PM or have them serve at a Knights of Columbus event. The Knights would make a donation to the Youth Ministry. Lupita does not want to take away responsibilities from other ministries who also enjoy what they do and she has a limited number of resources. We are losing some of our youth as they head off to college and hope they stay connected through the Young Adult/Family Ministry.

Carolyn Sherwin, Judy Lynch, and Michael Bubla from the Social Awareness and Justice Ministry gave us an update on the Refugee Ministry. A separate document is attached with Judy's update. The refugee vetting process is long and thorough. Refugees are required to repay the government for any monies used for their flight and their settlement advance. The Parish made sure the family we sponsored had clothing and food when they arrived. The family speaks Kinyarwanda and they are using phone apps to help with language translation. It is going to take this family a little longer to find jobs since they do not know English but they are eager to learn. Normally a family has 3 months to get settled and find a job but this family has been given 6 months due to the size of the family and a grant that will help carry expenses longer. Sally said they must write a narrative documenting every visit as part of their accountability for supporting the family. Those parishioners who work with the Refugee Ministry must go through the Diocesan vetting process. There is a refugee center in Tucson that accepts donations of household goods but right now the center is full since we do not have a lot of refugee families coming into the Country. New refugee limits will be set in October. The existing refugee families may use the center to help replenish some of their household items at no cost to them.

Easter Masses – we had an additional 2,200 – 2,500 additional people attend Easter services. The collection was a little larger than normal, which helps carry us through the summer. The music for all Masses was very well received. A lot of work went into all aspects of the Mass but the music this year was really appreciated by all. Would be nice to put something in the bulletin thanking all of those who contributed. Stacy Pincus posted pictures from Easter on her Facebook.

Cinco de Mayo celebration on Seis de Mayo is all set. We have four food trucks. One of those is for dessert. We have proper permits to sell beer and margaritas. There will be Mariachis and Balet Folclorico. The event is from 5 – 8 PM.

Church Envelopes – the second batch of envelopes were mailed. We have included a form so Parishioners may notify us if they are going to be out of town for any duration. We can put a hold/restart on their envelopes. This new process should save us \$900/annually. This process give us an opportunity to reach out to parishioners once a quarter. Father Larry may also insert a customized letter with the envelopes.

Resources - Sister Jean submitted her resignation. Mike Bubla is going to take over her responsibilities. We have not found a replacement for Judy Rossman/C.A.R.E. Ministry. The job description may come across as being too much for one person to handle so looking to split up Judy's responsibilities (i.e. one person handle communion ministers; one do the grief work for families attending funerals; one person handle the liturgy piece.) We have filled the custodian position. If the person works out we will no longer need the company we contracted with for cleaning.

Finance - Margaret Yankovich is doing a great job of reducing our costs. Waste Management was charging us \$500 for our dumpster and the new company is charging \$100; working with TEP to replace our lighting with high efficiency lights; found a less expensive vendor to supply propane. She continues to track and reduce expenses.

Around the table:

- Ginny Pergantis attended a fund-raiser for the Newman Sustaining Board. Bishop Kicanas attended. He spoke of the importance of the Board. He also mentioned the Pope's next focus item is listening to millennials (ages 19-39) and hear their issues. Children are always welcome and we need to encourage them to return to the Church.
- Joe Liske has worked with the Parish youth for our St. Vincent de Paul's food drive and thought it was great exposure for them and appreciated the help.
- Sally Sample would like to give us an update on the PCICEO event she attended at a future meeting (Pima County Interfaith Civic Education Organization)
- The Knights of Columbus were given a nicely refurbished golf cart to use for a raffle. They are planning to have it at the Cinco de Mayo event to start selling tickets. Monies raised from the raffle may go to purchasing a camera to record some of the liturgical events.
- John Elofson – The pasta dinner had around 90 people attend. It was nice as there was plenty of room to spread out. Those who came enjoyed it.
- Fr. Larry – Recently there were 13 announcements in the bulletin. Instead of reading them all he is just going to have people read the bulletin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM