

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

September 22, 2015

Minutes

Present: Damian Barta, Theresa Buckman-Gilbert, Derrick Blakley, Deb Evans, Cynthia Judge, Jose Juan Moreno, Sheila Hebein, Betsy Quinn, Dan Vicencio, Torrick Ward and Fr. Mike Ahlstrom

Absent: Kevin Axe and Blanca Lule

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Opening Prayer – Theresa Buckman-Gilbert offered the opening prayer.

Minutes of the September 22 2015 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Theresa B-G and seconded by Damian Barta. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Pope John XXIII School Update: Cynthia J. gave a brief report on Pope John XXIII School. The school year began on August 25. There has been discussion of the service projects for PJ23 students with the Rice Center and "Shoebox Christmas", a service project for residents of the Native American Reservation where parishioners had previously visited as a service trip. The PJ23 cafeteria is available for the date of the "Shoebox Christmas" assembly date.

Policy Decision Making Proposal: Torrick W. and Sheila H. met with Maureen Connelly about a proposal for a decision-making framework. Torrick W. gave a verbal presentation about the process to determine project acceptance. The project approval process would involve initial parish staff review, then appropriate Parish committee review, and ultimately Pastor review. The parish calendar would be centralized and maintained by the staff through a standardized process.

Parish Update – Fr. Mike gave an update on parish activities. The Annual Report has been sent to the printer and is also being readied for translation into Spanish. Once printed in Spanish all the Annual Reports will be mailed to parishioners.

During the month of October, there will be special catechesis during the Mass. The different parts of the Mass will be discussed with commentary during each Mass. Liturgy of the Word, Eucharist, and Open and Send parts of the Mass will be discussed. The Liturgy committee and Fr. Mike have recommended this activity.

The Capital Campaign at present does not have enough funds to complete all the projects. The three projects are: Final Tower Repairs (lower third), Church sound system repair, and window replacement in the school building. Fr. Mike is looking for the combined wisdom of the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Parish Staff to determine the project priorities.

Pastor Transition Update: Cynthia J. discussed that small group discussion groups will be held after each Mass. The small group discussions will focus on questions focusing on the desired qualities we would like to see in a pastor and what parishioners can do to successfully find and support a new pastor. Cynthia asked that Parish Pastoral Council members assist with facilitating the conversations. A facilitator guide will be provided for volunteer facilitators. Fr Mike Knotek from the Priests Placement Board will be present at the September 23rd Pastor Transition Committee meeting.

Mass Survey – Sheila H. reviewed the progress of the Mass survey. The Mass Survey committee will be meeting to refine the Mass Schedule proposal. It is hoped that there will be a proposal to the Parish Pastoral Council by the November 2015 meeting. More input from Parish members and staff is being sought in the finalization of the proposed plan.

Year of Mercy: Damian B. had a short review of the parish activities so far. There have been a number of reflections on “mercy” in the parish bulletin. The Pope’s visit will lay some new ground on many topics.

Youth Ministry – Betsy Q. and Damian B. gave a short report on youth group activities. Having a volunteer youth minister does pose some challenges. The parish as a whole needs to be more engaged in youth catechesis. The youth group is still meeting regularly and there is a small consistent group that attends the meetings.

New Business –There was no new business.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Mike offered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

