

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

December 7, 2015

### Minutes

**Present:** Kevin Axe, Damian Barta, Theresa Buckman-Gilbert, Cynthia Judge, Jose Juan Moreno, Sheila Hebein, Betsy Quinn, Dan Vicencio, Torrick Ward and Fr. Mike Ahlstrom

**Absent:** Derrick Blakley and Debra Evans

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

**Opening Prayer** – Cynthia Judge offered the opening prayer.

**Minutes** of the November 17, 2015 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Betsy Q and seconded by Kevin A. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Parish Transformation Update:**

**Mass Schedule Report:** Sheila H. reported for the Transformation Mass Schedule Committee and Cynthia J. and Jose M. who also serve on the committee gave their reflections and opinions on the discussions that contributed to the option that was presented.

The Mass Schedule Committee requested approval for a pilot program, which will offer a Mass in Spanish in the Chapel at 9 a.m. for a limited period of time beginning in Lent 2016. A list of committee members was provided to the PPC and it is shown that the committee is made up equally of members of the Hispanic and Anglo communities, plus Fr. Mike Ahlstrom, and Deacons Ivan Lazcano and Chris Murphy.

Members of the PPC asked many questions and shared their experiences and opinions. Two PPC members who are long-time parishioners of St. Nicholas Parish – one of whom was born in the parish and the other who came here in the 1960's shared their fond memories and positive experiences in attending the Family Mass in the Chapel several decades ago. Others expressed concerns about the financial and staff availability with an additional Mass in Spanish. It was explained that the committee had discussed this and it was pointed out that this process would be time limited and there is clear understanding that we could not support 5 Masses except for a limited period of time. Parking lot concerns were also raised and it was acknowledged that this would have to be handled very carefully. It was agreed that the logistical challenges such as parking and financial issues would be carefully evaluated by the committee and Fr. Mike.

Sheila shared an e-mail memo she had received today from a parishioner who had some concerns about the Mass Committee's recommendations. The memo was distributed to all those present; it was read, discussed and carefully considered. Sheila said she would respond to the parishioner and thank her for taking time to address the PPC on this very important issue.

The following motion was made by Torrick Ward:

*"I move that the PPC approve the plan proposed by the Mass Schedule Committee that a pilot 9 AM Spanish Mass be held in the Chapel starting on Sunday, February 14th to Sunday, April 10th (excluding Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, when this Mass will not be offered.) Providing that logistical and financial considerations are appropriately addressed."*

The motion was seconded by Dan Vicencio and unanimously approved by the PPC:

Fr. Mike offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm