

## ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

January 26, 2016

### Minutes

**PRESENT:** Sheila Hebein, Deb Evans, Derrick Blakley, Jose Moreno, Cynthia Judge, Kevin Axe, Damian Barta, Father Mike Ahlstrom

**ABSENT:** Theresa Buckman, Betsy Quinn, Dan Vicencio,

**GUEST:** Tom Bertsche

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

Jose opened with a prayer.

Tom Bertsche, Chair of the St. Nicholas Finance Council, spoke with the Council about **TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS**, an Archdiocesan Capital Campaign program. All parishes in the Archdiocese are required to participate. Tom gave a history of St. Nicholas' response to the Archdiocese, concerning our own Capital Campaign, and we discussed if/how to begin implementation. Tom will be meeting with Father Mike and Maureen Connelly to continue discussion.

**MINUTES** - The meeting continued with approval of the minutes from the December 7, 2015 meeting. Jose motioned to approve, Derrick seconded the motion.

Discussion of **VISION KEEPERS AWARD**. Over the years, the recipients have not reflected the diversity of the St. Nicholas community. The PPC was asked to give a recommendation for this award and we voted for Gina Ramirez to be given the honor. Father Oldershaw originally suggested Gina and we concurred with his idea. Fr. Mike approved the nomination.

### PASTOR TRANSITION UPDATE

Cynthia gave a report about the Pastor Information Night held at St. Domatilla's on January 12, 2016. 6 representatives from the Parish attended: Sheila Hebein, Dan Vicencio, Mary Dolan, Yolanda Salgado, Evan Armacost and Cynthia. Five prospective priests spoke with our group, but none seemed the right fit for St. Nicholas. Father Knotek and other members of the Priest Placement Board were extremely pleased with that the effort put forth by St. Nicholas Parish to represent our Parish well.

### PARISH TRANSFORMATION UPDATES

- **MASS SCHEDULE:** Jose and Sheila gave a report about the upcoming Pilot. A second Spanish Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. on 7 Sundays in the Chapel, beginning on February 14th. Fr. Mike assigned Lenore and Jaime Rojas to coordinate recruitment and training of Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for these pilot Masses. The first meeting was held on Monday, January 25th, which was well attended - 30 people came. There will be another training on February 8th. Pulpit and bulletin announcements have been made and though there has been some concern expressed by both Anglos and Hispanics, the response has generally been very positive.

**POPE JOHN XXIII SCHOOL** Report: Beautiful packets about the School were given to Cynthia for the Pastor Information Night.

**YOUTH:** Damian reported that James said that the Youth Group hopes to do a Pancake Breakfast in March, perhaps on the 13th.

### **SERVICE TRIP**

The planning is well under way for the 3rd Annual Service Trip, location will most likely be South Dakota. Families and teens will be able to participate this year. There will be fundraisers, including Stock Sales as in past years. There may be a Car Wash to raise funds, as well as a booth at the Evanston Farmer's Market. The dates are not quite set. There will be an informational meeting on February 4th.

### **STAFF AND PPC DINNER**

Discussion about when we might have a potluck, perhaps in April. Further discussion will take place at the next PPC meeting.

**PPC RETREAT** – This issue will be on the agenda for the February meeting of the PPC.

### **LETTER FROM A PARISHIONER**

The PPC received a letter from an active, long time parishioner, which expressed the opinion that we need to be more inclusive at St. Nicholas. It generated good conversation. Derrick said we should keep this in mind for the next pastor, and it was stated that this maybe an idea for a wider conversation within the Parish or an article in the bulletin.

### **ARCHDIOCESAN PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

Father Mike, who joined the meeting after arriving back from his trip to the Holy Land, told the PPC that the Archdiocese has been having discussions with priests as to the future of Churches here in Chicago. This is based on demographic changes, shortage of priests, the need for collaboration, etc. On February 9th, there will be a Vicariate meeting at St. John Breubeuf, with 4 representatives from each Parish attending. Father Mike has asked Sheila (Chair of the PPC), Tom Bertsche (Chair of the Finance Council), Cynthia (Co-Chair, Pastor Transition Team and either Jose or Maria Morena (representing the Hispanic community) to represent St. Nicholas.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m. with Father Mike saying the Closing Prayer. Cynthia then showed the St. Nicholas video that she and Brad Armacost made, which was created for and shown at the Parish Information Night at St. Domatilla's.

Minutes submitted by Cynthia Judge