



St. Teresa
of Avila
Catholic Church

December 14, 2009
Parish Pastoral Council

November PPC Meeting Notes for Review /Comments

PPC members present: Father Frank, Dave Hilko, Dana Vance, Joe Haley, Tom M Micinski, Cathy Kosnik, Brian Graziano, Tony Rivera, and Tom Kinsella.

An agenda was provided.

Opening prayer was provided by Tom Kinsella.

Dave presented a financial report and explained that this report was more detailed than the one in our weekly bulletin, that this included “actual” and “estimated” statistics. He stressed that we wanted to increase amounts so we can complete capital improvements that were really necessities. He reported that we have increased funds by over \$6,000, from this time last year, while many other parishes saw decreases. Dave reported that we are current on paying our bills and forecasted that we will be OK with meeting operating expenses. We have a concern with our capital budget, in that we have \$10,000.00 in the account and \$5,000.00 is projected expenses. He reminded us that we have paid for boiler repairs already. A big uncertainty is the amount we will raise from our annual fundraiser. If we are very successful, we can further address capital issues. Dave will report in January for 2010 financial matters. Dave also reported that the fundraiser has been sold out and that raffle tickets could sell more before and during the event.

Father Frank addressed the Parish Mission Statement and sparked lively conversation aimed at drafting an initial mission statement this evening. Parish knowledge and feedback on the mission statement was discussed. A consensus was that it should be short and include “what we are about as a Parish.”

Brian related experience of the Branding Committee showed that not many parish members know where it is or what it says. He added that there seems to be three major groups in the parish and that newcomers are more concerned with what we are and how to become more involved, what are the next steps after joining. For others, it is a victory if they get to Mass. A general discussion was held on matter related to this.

Father Frank reminded us that these things were more related to a Vision Statement, which we will address after we form a Parish Mission Statement. He asked us to work to keep the questions of who/what we are, separate from questions about how we do this. He added that some Parishes refuse to do mission statements.

More general discussion was held and we talked about our mission statement not mentioning God, scriptures and we agreed that we should not list groups of people.

A copy of previous draft mission statements was provided and served as a starting point for drafting a new statement. We agreed that people attend our parish to get a sense of welcome, found nowhere else, and to see our Faith in action. Our conversation diverted us into topics more related to the question of how do we do this and a Vision Statement (where do we see ourselves in 5-10 years).

Dana recorded our ideas as we re-focused on drafting a Parish Mission Statement: Here is what was proposed:

The Saint Teresa of Avila Parish is a diverse Catholic community of faith that embraces all people, without exception. Challenged by the gospel and nourished by the Eucharist, we are called to be witnesses of Christ's Love. Inspired by the words of Saint Teresa, we work to become the hands, feet, eyes, the body of Christ on earth.

The St Teresa of Avila prayer in whole is: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." I tried to shorten this but still capture the main idea.

We did address the Vision Statement and Father Frank stressed that we need to see ourselves 5-10 years in the future. He added that the curb appearance, along Armitage is going to be overhauled so as to increase community awareness of us as a Catholic Church. Father Frank and others contributed to a list that included Evangelization, Community Social Outreach, Community Building, Religious Education, Liturgical Programs aimed at different level of commitment, as things to be considered in making our Vision Statement.

Dave and Father Frank suggested that we need to recognize that we are a fairly transient parish and limited in what we can do. We will consider what may be achievable within our means, while stretching ourselves in Faith.

These notes may not be complete in that I had to leave the meeting prior to adjournment. Tom Micinski provided a closing prayer.

Submitted: December 14, 2009, Tom Kinsella PPC Secretary