

ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
March 10, 2014

MEETING PARTICULARS

A meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was held in the Parish Center, starting at 7:05PM on Monday, March 10, 2014.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Attending: Fr. Frank Latzko, Kate Lynch, Tom Micinski, Paolo Basil, Addison Carpenter, Lina Hilko, Jessica Marx, Rebecca O'Brien, Justin Peters, Amir Rafizadeh, Mike Rice

Council Members Absent: Bert Olson

Others Attending:

MINUTES

Opening Prayer – Paolo Basil

Prayer based on Psalm 139 on the theme of how close God is to us, e.g., “Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?” ... “If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Thy hand shall lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.”

Year of Faith 2014/15 Planning – Fr. Frank

The PPC met for Year of Faith Planning for the first ½ hour of their time. See separate Minutes prepared by Tom Micinski, Secretary for Year of Faith Planning.

Regular PPC business started at 7:40PM.

Standing Reports

Building & Facilities – Tom Micinski

- The land sale is in the final stages of signatures. Proceeds expected in June.
- Despite good intentions for land sale communications, there are parishioners who have questions regarding this specific decision, or decision processes in general, or communications in general.
 - A group of parishioners, led by Dan Anderson, attended last week's Finance Council meeting and much time in that meeting was spent answering questions around the land sale and how the money will be used.
 - PPC members who attended that meeting (Fr. Frank, Tom Micinski, Justin Peters, Kate Lynch, Amir Rafizadeh) provided updates on what they heard.
 - We must continue to commit to open processes and communications improvements as we grow the parish.
- Next meeting of the Renovation Committee is March 12 at 7:00PM. All are invited, especially PPC, to enhance their ability to portray this work to parishioners.
- Building Faith Together collections remain on schedule.

PPC Administrative Business – Lina Hilko

- Tony Rivera is stepping down from PPC.
- Lina checked in with Anna Althoff who has been coming regularly to see if she would like to join officially at this time. Answer to Lina was “not just yet” but still interested.
- Bert has been absent a number of meetings due to a new job but remains committed.
- Amir brought forward Alex Lopez as a candidate for new member. Lina will contact.

Finance Update – Justin Peters

- Sunday collections are the parish’s life line, and there is concern that during the renovation and relocation of mass to Parish Center, weekly contributions may be disrupted. Lina spoke with Bill Mack, who has stressed that the underlying goal is to meet the weekly obligations with the Sunday collections, leaving the fundraising to pay for the special event.
- There needs to be a culture change – Become good stewards of God’s gifts. The parish needs to cover our expenses whether you attend mass or not. Considering sending messages to the parish to set up automatic giving with a theme along the lines of “ We Are Here For You 365, Be Here For Us. “
- Lina suggested that a specific number per mass would help entice people to set up automatic payments: “ We need 10 people from this mass to meet our goal this week!”
- Lina will continue working with the Finance Council to change the culture of giving.
- Addison agreed to coordinate a meeting for a smaller group to discuss messaging and culture change.

Events/Fundraising – Rebecca O’Brien

- Cuisine du Coeur was a big hit. \$7500 is current estimate of net revenue. Lots of joy.
- Mike Usiak wanted to move the Spaghetti Dinner to an earlier date in the year but moving it to the fall or early winter is the best so that it does not interfere with all of the other spring activities. Fr. Frank suggested holding it as a send off meal for Camino parishioners, e.g., “ Carbs for Camino.”
- We need a new chair for the parking lot party in September because Rebecca is now chairing the big fundraiser in November. Rebecca will ask Shannon Blaha.
- The major fundraiser, ToYL, had challenges, such as the new venue at Park West, electronic bidding, and the move away from a gala style event. Desire for 2014 is to return to a gala style fundraiser which will turn into a great social event (vs a great social event that we hope results in a great fundraiser, as well).
 - Rebecca has contacted the Holiday Inn and they are eager to accommodate us again. They have offered a favorable fee on a Saturday evening. We will look around for alternatives but have placed a hold on Holiday Inn.
 - We will not use Impact 360, last year’s event provider, again in 2014.
 - The kickoff meeting for 2014 fundraiser will be Wednesday, March 19 at 7PM. Planning a relaxed atmosphere around dinner. Looking for a place to host dinner.
- Mike Rice will reach out to the City of Chicago and see what is involved to run an outdoor movie event in our parking lot to enhance parish visibility.

Faith Formation – Kate Lynch

- The Friday night Lent activities are set up and last week’s “experiment” was successful. 21 people attended the family fun night. Looking forward to a successful run of events that also work with the Parish Loaves and Fishes.
- Fr. Frank stressed that he is concerned about kids and non-parishioners at Loaves and Fishes interacting (Fish Fry). He wanted to be sure that there are enough adults with Virtus training at all events, in addition to the parents.
- Fr. Frank raised other concerns regarding compliance with the “Protecting God’s Children” program as related to the use of the Religious Education Center to service both children and adults at overlapping times. Kate and Lina will give this topic thought to ensure a safe environment in this much-used space.

Pastoral Matters

Pope’s Exhortation – Fr. Frank

- A small group met (Fr. Frank, Kate Lynch, Lina Hilko, and Justin Peters) on Feb 23rd to discuss the Exhortation. This did not result in immediate action items.

Ministry Organization – Addison Carpenter, Lina Hilko

- Lina updated that a small group met on Feb 24th for a kick off meeting to brainstorm ways to enhance parishioner engagement (Lina Hilko, Anna Althoff, Addison Carpenter, and Barb Schell; also Kate Lynch but she was absent).
- Addison presented the Parish Book program which was successfully offered by Dynamic Catholic to engage churches and faith which leads to increased collection and group membership. Addison is working with Erica and Fr. Frank to order 600 books at a cost of \$2 each to give to all who attend at Easter. Book will include an invitation for book follow-ups at St. Teresa’s.
- Addison presented idea of survey of parishioner talents/interests as a means to begin engagement enhancement follow-ups.
 - Addison was present at DePaul mass recently where they surveyed all parishioners to gauge how the parish is doing in various aspects (e.g., liturgy, music, learning opportunities, social services).
 - Addison took a copy of that survey and talked about his idea for a survey.
 - Fr. Frank and Kate Lynch updated that DePaul’s type of survey is actually part of a broader diocesan thing in which St. Teresa’s will likely participate.
 - Fr. Frank would like to renew the parish transformation. The idea of a huge cultural shift in the church; becoming more open and connecting with the parish and find out what they can do for the church is exciting. It will be a long road but will benefit everyone at the end of the day.
- Addison introduced the concept of using Fr. Frank as a “super connector” to connect new or searching parishioners with seasoned parishioners to establish personal connections..
- Addison introduced the idea of one-on-one coffees to connect with and engage parishioners. Idea is for a core of 10 trained ministers to meet with 60 people each over the next year, perhaps using info gleaned from the survey, to welcome and engage in a very personal, high-touch way.
- Lina mentioned that Addison’s updates cover the topics discussed at that first Feb 24th meeting. The group will continue to meet to discuss idea of a ministry fair.

“Stewardship Parish” Statement – Lina Hilko

- We state that we are a stewardship parish and 3% of our income goes to outside missions. Our budget process needs to have a line item for this 3% so we can actively manage toward this goal. Without it in the budget, we find ourselves waiting until the end of the year to see if monies remain to cover this goal. Lina spoke with Erica and Bill and they are on board with this idea, and it will be added as a line item for the 2015 fiscal year.

Pastor’s Comments/Additions – Fr. Frank

- Fr. Frank is meeting with two Rabbis who wish to work with us during Loaves and Fishes and he wants to pray and work with them. Goal to improve our interfaith initiatives.
- Thanks to the Catholic Extensions Society, Tom M and Fr. Frank have been invited to fly out to California 5/13 – 5/15/2014 to visit missions, speak with immigrants, illegals and witness poverty which will help us spearhead our Peace & Social Justice ministry.

ADJOURNMENT

The next PPC meeting will be April 14, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting ended at about 9:00PM.

Prepared by: Mike Rice