

ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
January 12, 2015

MEETING PARTICULARS

A meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was held in the Parish Center, starting at 7:16 PM on Monday, January 12, 2015.

ATTENDANCE

Council Members Attending: Fr. Frank Latzko, Tom Micinski, Anna Althoff, Lina Hilko, Laura King, Alex Lopez, Rebecca O'Brien, Bert Olson, Justin Peters, Amir Rafizadeh

Council Members Absent: Kate Lynch, Jessica Marx

Others Attending: N/A

MINUTES

Opening Prayer – Rebecca O'Brien

Prayer from 'Jesus Calling' tied to New Year and new beginnings/resolutions based upon God as our guide.

Pastoral Matters – Fr. Frank

Discussion regarding Instituting Sharing Parish – Fr. Frank

- Lina Hilko began the PPC meeting, focusing upon our mission statement, specifically our duty to 'sharing' with those in need. She believes we need to work on bringing the mission statement out into the world and the surrounding community. Fr. Frank was quick to mention, at present time, roughly 3% of our net collections are donated to those in need.
- Continuing on with the notion of sharing, Fr. Frank mentioned that four parishes located within the Chicago area, are in need of being supported and becoming a sharing parish. The PPC took note of the four possible parishes: Sts. Peter and Paul, Mary Queen of the Apostles, St. Nicholas (one other).
- The PPC began debating the possibilities of each as a sharing parish, yet being mindful that each are rather small and do have the threat of closing or merging. Also mentioned was the notion that this must be a sharing, 'two way street' for both St. Teresa's and sharing parish. How might they help us? What could they bring to St. Teresa's, in terms of non-monetary assets?
- Bert Olson and Anna Althoff are going assist Fr. Frank in reviewing these four parishes and report back at the next PPC meeting.

Update on Renovation and Timetable – Fr. Frank

- Fr. Frank provided an update on the renovation of the church and the timetable for the months ahead. March 8th is the desired Sunday in which the church will be ready for mass. One stipulation is that the altar must be consecrated by a bishop before being used to say mass. Fr. Frank has reached out to a few, however, no response has been received.

- Regardless, the altar will not be ready in final form by March 8th. Plan is to celebrate mass in the church using a temporary altar (perhaps a “cap” build over the un-finished and un-blessed altar) until completion and bishop’s blessing.
- Fr. Frank discussed the possibility of having a ‘Liturgy Transition’ mass; we would begin mass in the parish center and the process into the new church.
- Fr. Frank also mentioned that he plans to bless the new baptismal font on Palm Sunday, which coincides with the March 28th 500th anniversary of St. Teresa of Avila’s birth.

Renovated Church Community Opening Event – Fr. Frank

- Fr. Frank would like to start planning a community opening celebration to “unveil” the renovated church to community, including elected officials, RANCH Triangle, Armitage business neighbors, etc.
- Rebecca agreed to chair this event. Anna, Laura, and Tom Micinski also agreed to help.

Lenten Programming – Lina Hilko

- Due to a fall on ice before Christmas, Kate Lynch is cutting back on responsibilities for an unknown amount of time. Lina Hilko is helping to recruit people to fill in some of her responsibilities. As such, Lina and Kate cannot work on designing a Lenten retreat/mission, as originally planned.
- Lina listed various Lenten activities that will exist: return to daily morning masses; communal Reconciliation on Mar. 11; Meatless Friday Family Game Nights; parish-wide Fish Fry in conjunction with one Loaves and Fishes dinner; Easter Traditions event on Sat, Mar. 28. The events are a little more weighted toward families.
- Lina and Fr. Frank were thinking these events are “enough” for this Lent, and there’s no need to add a retreat/mission this year. Wanted to bring this to PPC for discussion in case others felt differently.
- The group discussed alternatives or something to add to parish Lenten offering. An idea which Fr. Frank may execute on is for Fr. Frank to “revive” his blog (FrFranksCamino.com) with daily Lenten reflections.

Update on Deacon Dean Joining St. Teresa’s – Fr. Frank

- Still set for Deacon Dean to join the parish.

Update on Hiring of Minister of Stewardship – Fr. Frank

- In dialogue with Rebecca O’Brien to create a part time position. This will be discussed next meeting.

Standing Reports

We curtailed official Finance Update and typical Committee Updates for Faith Formation and for Events & Fundraising because business was largely covered under Pastoral Matters.

Building Faith/Facilities Update – Tom Micinski

- Building Faith Campaign continues on target with collections. Reminder letters of pledged amounts will go out to parishioners soon.

Committee Update: Social Justice – Amir Rafizadeh

- St. Josaphat has a club that will cover Loaves & Fishes cooking and serving on Fridays every so often. No set schedule, as such.
- Floriole Bakery (1220 W. Webster) is donating their Thursday leftovers to St. Teresa's rather than throwing them out. Will be used for snacks as Loaves & Fishes guests enter and await dinner, along with coffee.

Anniversary Year 2014/15 Planning – Fr. Frank

- Commemorative Video – progressing
- Fr. Frank plans to take one week off, away from the parish, to write the Renovated Church Guide Book. He will then seek someone to review/edit.
- Spring Trip to Italy is on hold; probably won't occur.

Pastor's Comments/Additions – Fr. Frank

Christmas Dinner – Fr. Frank

- Next year's Christmas Dinner will become a ministry reaching out from a new prayer group that Fr. Frank is creating. It will be completely separate from our current Loaves & Fishes ministry.
- Additional outgrowth of this prayer group will be various banquets for everyone, not just the homeless.
- The prayer group will unify through learning about St. Francis, based on a book called Reclaiming St. Francis of Assisi. The group will learn and pray together.

Fridays for Peace – Fr. Frank

- Fr. Frank discussed his ideas surrounding 'Friday's for Peace.' Up until 1966, Catholics were to abstain from eating meat on all Fridays. Friday has always been a day of penance for Catholics, in remembrance of Jesus' passion on Good Friday.
- In 1966, Bishops changed rules to remove abstention from meat on all Fridays (just abstain on Fridays of Lent). However, the intent was that all Fridays would remain days devoted particularly to penance. Somehow this focus on penance has been largely lost.
- Fr. Frank would like to introduce a program to reinstitute the focus on prayer and penance for anyone wanting to devote themselves to this renewal. Prayer focus will particularly be on ending racism and violence.
- This will be discussed in future meetings. Fr. Frank does not yet know when he'll bring this to the parish.

ADJOURNMENT

The next PPC meeting will be February 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Light food and prayer will be provided by Justin Peters.

The meeting ended at about 8:35PM.

Prepared by: Bert Olson