

**ST. TERESA OF AVILA CATHOLIC CHURCH
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
February 9, 2015**

MEETING PARTICULARS

A meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was held in the Parish Center, starting at 7:07 PM on Monday, February 9, 2015.

ATTENDANCE

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

Council Members Absent: Kate Lynch, Alex Lopez,

Others Attending: N/A

MINUTES

Opening Prayer – Justin Peters

Justin provided opening prayer, focusing upon the theme, “Why do we only come to Christ Jesus when we are in need?” We also prayed for Belen’s husband, Bolivar, who passed away while in Puerto Rico this past week.

Pastoral Matters – Fr. Frank

Stewardship Update – Rebecca O'Brien

- Rebecca announced that she is now Director of Stewardship at St. Teresa’s; this role includes a variety of items yet focused upon increasing funds, volunteering opportunities, and parish events. The goals of the position have yet to be determined. Rebecca plans on creating a Stewardship Committee.
- One of the first projects is to increase Sunday Offering; this will be accomplished through automated giving via ‘Give Central.’ Fr. Frank will preach on Feb 21/22 on Sunday giving, and there will be “witness” statements at end of all masses for two weekends.
- Another project will be the Welcoming Committee for new parishioners; Rebecca will work with the staff and parish council in order to establish guidelines and what it should include.
- Similarly, Rebecca requested we provide ideas and events you would like to see at St. Teresa’s in the coming year.
- Time of Your Life (TYOL) will still fall under the Stewardship role however, Rebecca would like to delegate more aspects to various volunteers.

Sharing Parish/Outside Mission Update – Fr. Frank

- Anna Althoff, Bert Olson and Fr. Frank met late January to discuss the Sharing Parish/Outside Mission.
- Fr. Frank received a list of six parishes, within the Chicago Archdiocese, who are in need of support. Of those six, three are in desperate need of assistance; it was made known that they are located in struggling areas located on the South Side.

- The group is in the process of evaluating how this relationship with the sharing parish will create a partnership; a ‘two-way street’ as Fr. Frank put it. Bert and Anna are scheduled to interview one of the pastors each, via the phone and provide an update at the next Parish Council meeting in March and a decision made by April.

Lenten Programming/Announcements – Amir Rafizadeh, Lina Hilko

- The group discussed the Lenten Fish Fry scheduled for March 6th held in conjunction with Loaves & Fishes dinner. Those in attendance will help cover the cost for a guest; suggested ticket price set at \$15 dollars. Amir asked that we schedule volunteers and bring a dessert; seating will be limited; maximum 40 parishioners will allow for roughly 80 guests total.
- Other Fridays throughout Lent: Friday Game Night: Families will host these meals. All activities occur in the Religious Education Center 5:30pm – 7:30pm.
- March 28th there will be an event for the children to decorate cookies, bake lamb cakes, dye eggs, etc.
- “Ashes @ the El” Amir and the group discussed possible ash distribution at the Armitage El train station. The group agreed scheduling for the entire day might be difficult; we agreed it would begin at 7:00am until 9:00am and resume during the evening rush hour. There will be a full mass at 7:30am and 7:00pm.

Anniversary Year 2014/15 Planning – Fr. Frank

- Commemorative Video – No update although still in the works.
- Renovated Church Guide Book – Not yet started. Won’t start until after church is done.

Standing Reports

Finance Council Update – Justin Peters

- None
- Amir noted the Super Bowl party raised roughly \$900 for the parish.
- Someone has already donated a private tour of the Sistine Chapel for 2015 ToYL Live Auction.

Committee Update: Social Justice – Amir Rafizadeh

- The Greater Chicago Food Depository might provide St. Teresa’s with a Double Freezer.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS): Fr. Frank mentioned a mission trip to El Salvador; he already has two volunteers: Becca and Jason to accompany him. Fr. Frank described the importance of El Salvador to the greater church; Oscar Romero, a bishop in El Salvador, who was assassinated by local guerillas, was recently declared a martyr of the church, by Pope Francis. We may show the movie, “Romero” in the future.

Pastoral Matters Continued – Fr. Frank

Update: Renovation, Transition Masses, Bishop’s Blessing, & Community Opening – Fr. Frank

- March 7th/8th we hope to have the church open and ready to celebrate transition masses. There will most likely be a transition mass where we proceed into the new church during the homily. PPC leaders are to attend the masses that weekend.
- Contacting Bishop Kane to schedule blessing for the altar. There might be a celebration of brunch after the 900am and Noon Sunday mass are combined into a special 10:00am

mass; however this is yet to be determined. If Bishop Kane can come in May, we'll combine the blessing mass with a community opening event. If not until September, then probably will hold community event in May, apart from blessing mass.

- Fr. Frank presented two mockups, which are to be used for the wooden tabernacle; a local artisan, who specializes in beautiful wood creations for religious purposes, is currently constructing the tabernacle for the new church.

Pastor's Comments/Additions – Fr. Frank

None, except that after the meeting ended, Fr. Frank led the Parish Council members through a tour of the renovated church.

ADJOURNMENT

The next PPC meeting will be March 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Light food and prayer will be provided by Tom Micinski.

The meeting ended at about 8:20PM.

Prepared by: Bert Olson