

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

MEETING PARTICULARS

A meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) was held in the Parish Center, starting at 7:08 PM on Monday, March 9, 2015.

ATTENDANCE

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

Council Members Absent: Kate Lynch, Anna Althoff, Laura King, Jessica Marx

Others Attending: N/A

MINUTES

Opening Prayer – Tom Micinski

Prayer theme focused upon giving thanks to God for the renovated church but notes we now must take it further and welcome those in the community to share in its glory.

Standing Reports

Finance Council Update – Justin Peters & Rebecca O'Brien

- Give Central and automated giving campaign has been going very well over the past three weeks. Current numbers are close to 60 new sign-ups to GiveCentral with a goal of 100. Rebecca mentioned that when introducing ‘Give Central’ to current parishioners, some simply didn’t think about make up for Sunday collections missed. Currently, St. Teresa’s is number one in the deanery regarding participation in automated giving, with 81 parishioners giving weekly through GiveCentral, of the 250 that are at least registered on GiveCentral. The increase in those registered might take roughly two months to show the increase in funds/contributions.

Building Faith/Facilities Update – Tom Micinski

- No real updates. Tom mentioned that letters are going to be sent those who have pledged but not yet given or are not up to date in giving. We also discussed the possibility of creating a “Donor Wall” for this campaign and need to restore the one from 1988 renovation. The official campaign will end May 1st 2016.
- Tom also mentioned a leaky roof near the Parish Center and also the Rectory roof will need to be redone this spring or summer.

Committee Update: Stewardship – Rebecca O'Brien

- Rebecca discussed a call campaign suggested by Chris Parente (Finance Council) for those who haven’t signed up for Give Central or who are registered at St. Teresa’s but not actively donating. We discussed how it might seem offensive to call people, who are away from St. Teresa’s, and immediately ask them to start giving money. We discussed the idea of calling families and mentioning the new opening of the church and at least

establishing a baseline of who is still a parishioner and who has moved onto other parishes as a baseline. Bert, Alex and Chris to volunteer to make calls one night soon.

- New Care Ministry: Rebecca met Mary Russell, a new parishioner interested in starting a ministry of care. Rebecca has suggested that we start small with potential to grow, perhaps organize a team to cook meals for those who are struggling or new moms.
- Night Ministries: “Night Ministry” ministers to homeless teens and teen mothers, providing medical buses that go around on streets. We could partner with Night Ministry to deliver food and warm clothing near such buses. Perhaps set a goal to do this once per season as an additional social outreach of the parish.
- PechaKucha (Japanese Method) Discussion Group: Casey Bowles and Lauren are former St. Clement’s parishioners (won an award there) who have joined our parish. Casey is interested in leading a discussion group under a Japanese method called PechaKucha in which present 20 slides, 20 seconds per slide. Talk on spirituality. Leader presents for 6 minutes. Then small discussion groups. Follow with another presentation (6 minutes) and another small discussion group. Then, done.

Committee Update: Events – Rebecca O’Brien

- Cuisine de Coeur – Ticket Sales have been slow, many people pay at the door. We have been asked to invite friends and family for the dinner, scheduled March 22nd.

Committee Update: Faith Formation – Lina Hilko

- Kate will be back in town following the death of her nephew. Faith Formation continues to move forward as many people have stepped up and volunteered in Kate’s absence.
- Four children are to be Confirmed at St. Mike’s in Old Town; there are three parishes who have joined together for the Confirmation mass. Next year’s class expected to be 12 Confirmand. Numbers vary quite a bit.
- 28 children will be making their First Reconciliation on March 18th and on April 26th First Communion. Biggest class ever.
- Fr. Frank discussed the declining attendance for all religions worldwide (keying off an article he read); people pray but they do it alone and don’t enjoy the community aspect of religion. They want to be a part of something but not a religious organization or a community. We must create more outreach for those ‘lost sheep.’

Committee Update: Social Justice – Amir Rafizadeh

- Chicago Food Depository – We might have a new freezer coming in very soon.
- When Kate returns, want to send a letter to all volunteers stating that children under 18 be accompanied by an adult at parish service events.
- Want to do another Blood Drive (May or June).
- Fish Fry went well. 64 L&F guests; about 10 parishioners.
- Hunger Walk – Save the Date: June 20th

Pastoral Matters – Fr. Frank

Update: June 21st Event for Bishop’s Blessing & Community Opening – Rebecca O’Brien

- Fr. Frank discussed the June 21st Open House. We will merge the 9:00am and 12:00pm into a large 10:00am Mass with a Bishop who will preside over the celebration. Following Mass, the buildings will be open to the public with refreshments served.

Challenges are that it's Father's Day and the beginning of Pride Week, yet not the actual parade. There will be a 6:00pm mass as well followed by 6:51 Club which might be a nice ending to the day. Logistical questions were discussed in detail regarding, food preparations, alcoholic beverages and tents erected in common spaces.

- There will not be a 'Sunrise Mass' this year although it was brought up in discussion.

Pastor's Comments/Additions – Fr. Frank

Fr. Frank extended thank yous to all who worked so diligently in setting up and breaking down the "church" for the past 9 months and various other thank yous.

ADJOURNMENT

The next PPC meeting will be April 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Light food and prayer will be provided by Kate Lynch.

The meeting ended at about 8:25PM.

Prepared by: Bert Olson