

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2007
6:30 p.m., Saints of the America's Room

Attendees: Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Tony Acuna, Julie Dulac, Bob Guzik, Dan Muckensturm, Jose Rodriguez, Bill Stewart, Karen Stonecipher, Rob Taylor, and Lupe Martinez (Finance Council).

Absent: Norm Brennecke, Karen Moss, Yolanda Rodriguez, Nicholas Alberts and Brett Ensor

Substitution: Brian Moss for Karen Moss

Father Bob opened the meeting with prayer.

Space Subcommittee Report

There was no report from this sub-committee.

Parking/Access Subcommittee Report

The contents of this report continue to be submitted to the Parish Council under executive session.

Stewardship Subcommittee Report

Fr. Bob reported that the first meeting of the expanded committee was held on October 6, 2007. The members of this committee are as follows: Fr. Bob, Katherine and Anthony Macaluso, Maria and George Dempsey, Don and Margaret Cook, John and Rosalee Turner, Bruce and Laura Strotman, Phil and Kay Yates, BJ and Duane Martin, Kathleen and Clayton Cory, Bill and Barbara Stewart, Bob and Cheryl Guzik, Karen and Brian Moss, James and Julie Dulac, Lupe and Irma Martinez, and Brian and Barbara Cullen. Fr. Bob indicated that the meeting had gone well and was much like an adult faith formation class. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2007.

Parish Website Subcommittee

Rob Taylor submitted a report to the Council outlining the sub-committee's meeting, as well as, information detailing the website needs of the parish staff. See attachment to these minutes. The meeting attendees included Lorraine Chambers, Joyce Sullivan, and Rob Taylor. During this meeting, the sub-committee asked the questions: what is the purpose of the website and who are the users. The committee discussed the three groups of users: parishioners, parish staff, and non-parishioners who are seeking information about OLOL.

The sub-committee then discussed likes and dislikes of the current website and webmaster. Other topics included in the meeting were the possibility of making the Church Gift Shop accessible online to place orders with credit cards and adding a counter. Rob, Lorraine, and Joyce will make available a website link that includes a survey about our website. The committee will send this link to Ministry Heads, as well as, others who attended our last Ministry Meeting, such as parish staff, Finance Council, and Parish Pastoral Council. Once the data has been reviewed by the committee, they will report the findings to the PPC at the next meeting. The committee will continue to review our current webmaster while investigating the possibility of switching to a new one. Cost and website design are also topics this committee will explore.

New Membership

Karen Stonecipher reported that the informational meeting for prospective Parish Pastoral Council members will be held in the St. Anne's Room on Thursday, October 30, 2007. The meeting is scheduled from 7:00-8:30 and will be a time for any parishioners who are interested in possibly joining the Parish Pastoral Council to come to learn more about this Council. Bob Guzik shared with the group the format for the informational meeting.

- Sub-committee members will provide refreshments during a short socializing time.
- Introductions will be made.
- Bob will share with the group information about PPC.
- Prospective members will be able to ask questions.
- Those interested will be given an application.
- Applications will be returned to Bob Guzik and will be discussed at the November PPC meeting.

Hospitality

Tony reported that he had spoken with Margaret Cook concerning the turnout of the parishioners who had signed up during the Time and Talent Festival to help with hospitality on Sundays. Margaret was very pleased with the group that helped with donuts and coffee on September 30th. She expressed her thanks to the PPC members that were present to support the newcomers. She is in the process of trying to form a Hospitality Ministry and currently has 16 people interested. She hopes to have another 16 by January. If a ministry is formed, there is a possibility that the current organizations that provide assistance with donuts and coffee will be relieved from this duty. However, the PPC will continue their service. Should the current organizations be relieved from their duty, a PPC

representative will visit with these organizations to relay that any volunteers will still be welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Time and Talent Follow-Up

Bob Guzik again reminded Council members that each ministry and organization should be contacted to ensure there has been follow-up with those parishioners that signed up at the Time and Talent Festival. Council members will help contact parishioners, if needed. Tony Acuna reported that Rosalba Hernandez was concerned if parishioners who only speak Spanish that had signed up for various ministries had been contacted. PPC should find out this information when following-up with assigned ministries. Rosalba is willing to give those parishioners a call.

Church Sign

The old sign will come down soon. A monument sign will replace the old design. At this point, there has been no decision about placement of the sign. Council members discussed what should possibly be included on the sign. It was agreed that the sign should be kept simple but should at least include our phone number and website.

Kitchen Ventilation

Lorraine Chambers has not been able to contact David Rossoto at this point due to conflicting schedules. Fr. Bob reported that he had spoken to David briefly. David's first thoughts on the matter were that possibly adding a small fan in the wall was all that could be done. However, Lorraine will follow-up with David after he has had more time to look into the matter.

Ants

Again Lorraine has not been able to meet with David. Fr. Bob reported that he had seen some extermination taking place in past weeks. Lorraine will follow-up with David.

Comments by Fr. Bob

Fr. Bob announced that the first English as a Second Language classes will begin in November. The place and time are still being finalized.

Concerns of Parishioners

A parishioner sent the Council a suggestion of doing blessings of wedding anniversaries at the end of each month during mass. Fr. Bob's concerns with this suggestion include:

- Lengthening the mass
- Concern for those who are single, divorced, or widowed

- Questioned how many people would be comfortable with being acknowledged during mass

There was much discernment by the Council on this topic. Some council members agreed that this type of blessing or similar blessings make the mass more personal. Others shared Fr. Bob's concern that those who are single may feel left out. A council member then shared her experience of visiting a parish in which those having a birthday during the upcoming week or month were given a blessing. Several council members voiced concern of how to be inviting and welcoming to our parishioners without overloading the mass with extra activities which make the mass even longer. The problem of parishioners leaving mass before it is over continues causing some Council members to question if adding blessings at the end of mass will contribute even more to this problem. A council member expressed the feeling of peace that goes along with receiving the Expectant Mother's Blessing. Fr. Bob revealed that some blessings are provided in the liturgical Book of Blessings, one of the rites books published by the church. The blessing of expectant mothers is one of these blessings. Presently Fr. Bob does acknowledge special anniversaries of those celebrating anniversaries ending in 0 or 5 such as 10, 15, 25, 50. This topic will be added to the November agenda so that discussion can continue on what is best for our parish. Because suggestions and ideas are always welcome, Council members will try to get a feeling from parishioners on what they would like to see our parish do.

A Council member reported the displeasure of a parishioner in regard to the changes that have been made with the Children's Liturgy of the Word. This parishioner is not happy with the sign-up procedure and the age and number of participant limitations. Fr. Bob addressed this concern. He explained that the changes were made in order to abide by Safe Environment regulations. He further stated there is a lack of personnel to teach the children, as well as, a lack of space to safely house the children. He further stated that the Faith Formation office staff believe that a child 8-years and older should be participating in the celebration of the Mass, thus benefiting from being in mass. Those children that are younger than 4-years are too young to benefit from the children's liturgy. Fr. Bob expressed concern of parents continuing to send their children to the liturgy without having the name tag which indicates that the children did not sign-up. Children will be returned to their parents if they have not followed the correct sign-up procedures. Discernment of this issue led to a related problem of children walking around the church without proper supervision. Ushers are being asked to stop children and return them to their parents.

Another issue that came out of this discussion was the observance that some youth are hanging out downstairs during the 12:15 mass. The question was raised if these youth would prefer to attend mass in English. The point was made that liturgy cannot become a museum for preserving heritage. We, as a church, have a responsibility to aid Spanish speaking families to acclimate to this new environment. It was agreed by Council members that this topic was an issue on its own and should be discussed at a later date.

Another parishioner concern expressed was the closing of the Holy Family Center during Faith Formation classes. Due to Safe Environment issues, parents are not allowed to wait in the Holy Family Center. A council member expressed her concern that we are not providing a space for these parents to wait. Discernment followed which pointed out the difficulty of meeting this need due to our lack of space. Fr. Bob suggested that parents could wait in the St. Anne's Room upstairs or obviously, could sit in the sanctuary or chapel. The calendar will have to be checked to ensure that the St. Anne's Room is available during all Faith Formation sessions. A council member expressed her desire for OLOL to do as much as possible to make our parents feel welcome and to provide this opportunity for parents to come together in an informal atmosphere which aids in forming bonds among Catholic families.

A council member relayed a parishioner's question of whether attendance at Sunday masses has decreased since eliminating Faith Formation classes on Sunday. Council members observed that some people may now be able to select different masses, for example, Saturday evening mass. Fr. Bob will look at attendance of last year versus this year and report back to the Council.

Another concern of a parishioner that was discussed was the parishioner's observance of a lack of silent time after communion. Father Bob explained that although parishioners may sit after everyone has received the Eucharist, parishioners should keep singing until the end of the song. However, a period of silence should be observed. Fr. Bob reflected on whether he should republish in the bulletin the procedure for communion.

A council member reported that she had gone to our parish website to look at the bulletin but found that it wasn't the current week's bulletin. Fr. Bob explained that Joyce had been out of town, but that the bulletin should be updated at the beginning of each week on the website.

A council member questioned why the Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the 12:15 mass are being required to arrive at church by 10:30. Fr. Bob

explained that this is not a requirement but is intended to be an opportunity for faith formation for these parishioners. Fr. Bob further explained that this was an opportunity being offered due to the continued complaint that OLOL is not doing enough for the Hispanic Community.

PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for September

The following Parish Council and Finance Council members have agreed to host hospitality on October 28, 2007.

8:00 a.m.: Bob Guzik, Diane Gonzales, Tony Acuna

10:30 a.m.: Karen Stonecipher, Lorraine Chambers, Anthony Delarosa, and Mary Johnson

Bob Guzik will send reminders to all Parish Council and Finance Council members to remind them of their responsibilities.

Snacks/Closing Prayer for October PPC Meeting

Norm Brennecke is responsible for snacks at our November 12th meeting. Dan Muckensturm will provide the closing prayer.

November Agenda Items

Topics for the November PPC meeting were discussed. Priorities for this meeting include:

- Subcommittee Reports
 - New Membership
 - Space
 - Access/Parking
 - Stewardship Committee
 - Parish Website
- Hospitality
- Time and Talent Follow-Up
- Kitchen Ventilation
- Ant Extermination on Church Grounds
- Waiting Space for Parents
- Unattended Children
- Mass Attendance in September 2006 vs. 2007
- Building November Agenda
 - Comments by Father Bob
 - Report Concerns of Parishioners
 - PPC/FC Hospitality Schedule for November
 - December Agenda Items/November Bulletin Notes

October Bulletin Notes

Items for October Bulletin Notes were suggested:

- Bulletin note asking for Hospitality Ministry volunteers
- Bulletin note informing parishioners of the PPC Informational

Meeting

- November Agenda

The meeting was closed with a prayer read by Tony Acuna.