

Pastoral Council Meeting February 25, 2010

Members present: Robert, Mabel, Gustavo, Jose-Luiz, Peter, Fr. Oscar, Doris, Mildred, Kevin, Aaron

Visitors:

Christina visiting from maintenance committee.

Raj visiting from stewardship committee.

Zbigniew Zabinski visiting as parishioner

Parishioner time:

Christina here to ask on Beth's behalf that Beth lead the bathroom remodel. The council recommended to Fr. Oscar that Beth lead it. Fr. Oscar agreed. But Fr. Oscar wants Beth to coordinate with the finance committee and the pastoral committee. Fr. Oscar voiced concern about going ahead with bathroom considering the weekly collections deficit, but he understands that some funds are set aside for bathroom. His concern is about those funds that would be required beyond what has been set aside. Mildred would like Beth to archive the bathroom project documents. Robert agrees we should have a repository at the church of the various project documents just so they are in a secure place.

Pastor's report:

We have reached our ADA goal with \$79354 from 151 families, average pledge >\$525. Over goal by greater than \$11,616 + >\$4000 from Hispanic community expected.

Transition team mtg was held last Saturday. Fr. Oscar commented that it was very helpful and educational for him.

Gustavo says we should send thank you letters to ADA contributors. The council agreed.

Fr. Oscar bilingual penance service to be done for lent March 16, 7:30 PM.

Easter Vigil recommended to be bilingual.

Stewardship team activity:

Raj speaking. About 4 years on stewardship committee. There has been a learning curve. What does stewardship mean to committee and St. Athanasius? Various ministries do not talk to one another. No forum for doing so. The committee started

efforts to have contacts for ministry leaders. They kicked off annual ministries conference. For this year ministry conf (March 20, 2010), they want folks to learn how to be good stewards. Want to broaden scope. Sally Samaniego will speak to give lay testimony re. stewardship. Also, they want attendees to do a break out session. Goal of the conference: Each attendee should know how to be a good steward and know what they could do, in baby steps. The committee will be asking for renewal cards to be turned in. And give testimony about why they come and stay at St. Athanasius. A 4 week program of stewardship will happen for stewardship month, details to be planned later. Finally, follow up with people who provided commitment cards. Invitation letters to be sent out by Fr. Oscar.

Concert fundraising:

Jerry Jensen sent e-mail proposing more concerts. E.g. Friday April 30. Robert recommended appropriate communication in advance of the concert to assuage any parishioner's concerns about appropriate reverence if the concert is performed in the church. Kevin suggested giving out the reusable grocery bags to those we purchased a ticket to the concert. The pastoral council is supportive of having another concert. We suggest it be associated with closing of 50th anniversary year.

Report on finance actions:

Peter reporting. Other parishes got about 100+ people to sign up for parish pay. Reportedly, this helped smooth out donations. But someone has to manually update credit card expiration dates.

One parish is thinking of offering a new program associated with a parish finance s/w package (Parishsoft), and it has lower fees. Peter will look into it.

Peter suggests: rather than week in week out announcements about money, contact people outside Mass more. Letters, meetings, phone calls were ideas discussed.

A splinter meeting was held to discuss specific actions related to financial situation. Review costs (utilities, contracts, staff responsibilities), income, breakdown of collections. Also compare to other parishes. And conduct a census. Subcommittee to create plan.

Mabel suggested a grass roots effort to raise more weekly money.

Gustavo has gathered ideas to raise money: Raffles, concerts, festivals, dances, Jubilee t-shirts, (Fr. Oscar mentioned there is a t-shirt design already and it need only be ordered.), special collections, ask merchants, businesses, soccer games that charge admission. Jose Luiz volunteered to organize a dance, and sell food during it. Mabel says the Jovenes group is willing to do a car wash.

Fr. Oscar suggested a fundraising effort during the 9 special advent Masses.

Diversity:

Gustavo is still working on ideas to celebrate diversity in our parish. He proposes to put images of various patron saints from various countries on display in the vestibule.

Transition team meeting:

Kevin reported. The meeting was held, mostly committee members. It was educational for Fr. Oscar.

Recuiting:

Need to replace 3 retiring council members (Aaron, Kevin, Jenniffer)
Also need to recruit facilities committee members. The purview of that team will be a larger extent than mere maintainance, as it will include larger facilities usage issues as well.

Robert will chair recruitment committee. To report at next meeting. Kevin says need to do outreach before next meeting.

Next meeting March 25: Kevin suggests that next month we should take stock of where we are as pastoral council.