

ST. ATHANASIUS
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING:
December 17, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Whitley, Peter Taskovich, Gustavo Urias,
Jose Luis Rodriguez, Mildred Jones, Eleanor Kintana
Jenniffer Garlit Fr. Oscar, Deacon Leonel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Rulison, Robert Fitzwilliam, Doris Chou, Mabel Parra,
Fr. Stasys (vacation)

GUESTS PRESENT: Jerry Jensen

Approval of Minutes (November): Approved.

1. Pastor's Report:

- Fr. Oscar met with Mike Cavera due to the increasing concern about the relationship with GMS and because of the pressing need to review the rental contract. Currently does not reflect changes and additions made in recent years. Ian Abel from the diocese will be involved in revisions. Mike will also be placed in charge of major issues regarding GMS and will begin meeting with GMS representatives as soon as possible. Rental income is currently at \$17,500 per month including utilities. Concern raised that some GMS utilities are running 24 hours 7 days a week.
- Preached at all Masses about finances to appeal for an increase in donations. As of now, deficit is at \$47,000 and collections have decreased. Need for follow-up perhaps in January
- Stewardship Committee inviting all ministries to get involved in Ministry Fair this coming May 2010. Ask Raj for more details.
- Thank you Leonel and Rosa for leading Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration on December 12th weekend. Three big celebrations all together: Saturday early morning and night as well as Sunday noon.
- This year, we are introducing the spiritual tradition of "Simbang Gabi" which is a series of special early dawn Advent Masses. Originated in Spain and was introduced to other parts of the world like the Philippines. Although it is usually a novena of 9 Masses that are held at 5:30 AM during the 9 consecutive days that usher in Christmas, we are trying only 3 (December 22, 23, & 24) since this is our first year.
- Fr. Casey will be installed as pastor of St. Dunstan Church in Milbrae on January 10, 2010. All are welcome to attend his Installation Mass.
- Bilingual communal reconciliation service was held on Wednesday, December 16th. Total of 6 priests (4 bilingual priests, 2 English-only priests) heard confessions of the 80 parishioners in attendance. Lasted 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- Best e-mail to reach Fr. Oscar: oscartabujara@yahoo.com

2. Christmas Concert: (Jerry)

- Third Annual Christmas Concert this Friday, December 18th, 7:00 PM. Sponsored by Pastoral Council and co-chaired by Jerry Jensen and Jenniffer Garlit.
- Performers include: St. Athanasius 10:30 & 12:30 Choirs, Juntos Como Hermanos, St. Joseph's "Voice of Praise," Jovenes Para Cristo (Anawim), Deanery #2 Young Adults. Each group to perform one sing-a-long song to involve audience.
- Fr. Oscar and Jerry to give opening remarks.
- Carol Wilson will be in charge of kids' games in the vestibule. Pizza will be provided for kids' snacks.
- Fr. Oscar suggested to have a video recording and to save a program for the archives. Mabel Parra will be handling logistics. Piano will be moved at 5. Performers arrive at 6. Gift distribution will be same night.
- Donation basket will be passed. Funds for parish.
- **Fundraiser Concert on Friday, January 22, 2010:**
 - Jerry Pintar is putting together concert to highlight the talents of the choirs and its youth members. Solos and also choir pieces will be showcased.
 - \$5 per ticket with funds going to the parish. Any snacks provided will be donated so no expenses should be incurred by parish.

3. Parishioner's letter-Parish Spirituality:

- Fr. Stasys forwarded PC a letter from parishioner suggesting to have more spiritual activities (adoration, devotionals, etc.), as it is in Our Lady of Peace, to draw in more parishioners.
- In an email, Fr. Stasys expressed support for more spiritual activities and would be willing to help bring them about. Finances will follow if we are faithful to God.
- If more of these practices were made available, there would also be a need to educate people on them since they may not be familiar. (Blessed adoration, devotions, etc.) St. Simons once had workshops on these practices.
- Suggestion to have a mission going through these spiritual practices. Last one with Fr. Kevin Joyce on "The Jesus Prayer" proved to be successful but it does cost money.
- Fr. Oscar pointed out that we already have many spiritual activities to offer that may not be known to this parishioner. Our Lady of Peace has a parish make-up quite different from ours and may not be the best model for us.
- In response to letter, we should thank and acknowledge parishioner and assure that her suggestions have been taken into consideration. However, it would be wise to see if increasing the frequency/ amount of spiritual activities is a parish-wide need or the suggestion of one person. A survey and/or review of information gathered by the Transitional Team on parish needs would be very helpful.
- Also discussed issue about reverence in sanctuary, specifically the noise level after masses while others are still praying. Need to respect people's prayer time after mass but should be done in a way that does not discourage community

building. Father brought up that the position of the building contributes to this problem because parking lot is behind the church. Vestibule would be the ideal place to talk after mass since it is closed off but no one passes there to get to cars.

- Suggestions: -Have area around Tabernacle area and front pews reserved for “Quiet Zone.”
 - Dim lights after Mass with light focused on Tabernacle/Altar.
 - More Hospitality Sundays. (Coffee and Doughnuts)
 - Announcement reminders to observe reverence after Mass.

4. Finance Notes

- We still have a large deficit.
- Expectation that capital development is done in accordance with a 5 Year Asset Replacement and Maintenance Plan. Financial Council requesting to meet with Maintenance Committee and PC to develop this plan. MC has made bathroom remodeling a priority.
- Diocese is making grants available to fund certain projects. Recently funded installation of solar panels on roofs of some churches.
- Need to create multiple task forces with each separately in charge of specific projects like fundraising, updating records, repeated communication, encouraging automatic electronic giving, etc. Gets things done and parishioners become more involved. The more ownership they feel, the more they are willing to give. The big givers are often times the ministers.
- Currently have 2 full-time pastoral associates (Mike and Rosa) who help run parish administration. In the future, quite possible to run parish with only one priest if a visiting priest is available to help preside some Sunday Masses.

5. Review of last month’s Social Justice focus meeting

Positive

- Energizing
- Inspiring
- Learned a lot.
- Worthwhile
- Emphasized social justice.

Negative

- Timing. Ran overtime.
- Break into small groups more quickly.
- Should prep speakers to only speak for a couple minutes.

- Schedule of future focus groups: -January: None.
 - February: Spiritual/Devotional groups.
 - May: Evangelization

6. Next Meeting Agenda:

- Organize task forces.
- Set dates for potluck/workshops to bring together liturgical ministers of Spanish and English-speaking communities. (Gustavo)
- Plans and schedule for educative/religious film series. (Leonel)

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 28th, 7:30 PM @ Rectory.