

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
March 24, 2007

Katharine Anderson	Paula Mierzwa	Alberto Torres	Rebecca Wood
Angy Acosta	Fidel Rubio	Ester Velasco	
Bunny Fitzpatrick	Father Mike Schmied	Margaret Warren	
Carole Maxwell	Tony Sadowski	Rosalia West	

Prayer and Reflection

Prayer and reflection was by Angy and Rosalia. We heard about the story of the man, which was the third scrutiny. Their presentation was very good.

Who Are My Brothers and Sisters

This film showed how different cultures came together in their parish. It was brought up that before the defeat of Santa Ana, Hispanics were accepted in this country. After the defeat, they were felt to be foreigners. Immigrants from south of the Rio Grand are treated differently today than European immigrants were when they came through Ellis Island.

There was discrimination against the Polish, German, Italians, etc., then, but each group of immigrants had their own parish. They had Polish churches, German churches, etc. Most immigrants come here for a better life. Today, we do not have different parishes for different ethnic groups.

How can we help these people? They need to learn the language, find a home and legal services, etc. Many times the word “refugee” is used and the people aren’t exactly refugees. When people from Louisiana were displaced because of the hurricane, they were referred to as “refugees”, when they weren’t refugees.

Bunny asked if the Hispanic community is as concerned with the Anglo community coming to their events and Alberto responded that they like to have us there. We at St. Augustine have various events where everyone in the parish is invited to participant. We try to include every culture.

By-Laws and Constitution

Changes were made to the By-Laws. Our meetings have been changed to quarterly meetings. Parishioners are invited to each meeting of Council. The Sunday before each meeting, it could be announced when the meeting will take place and everyone is welcome. If there is a concern, it could be brought to the Council’s attention and acted upon at a later date. Parishioners should let Council know they have an issue before the meeting so time can be allotted to them for the issue. The term of office has changed to two (2) years. At this time, we have two (2) positions on Council to fill. This is due to Katharine coming off Council and Amber resigning from Council.

We did not have time to get to the Constitution. It was tabled for another time.

Many Faces in God's House

We viewed a second video on how parishes accept different cultures in their church. This video dealt with three (3) parishes around the country and various ways each culture held events. Both of these films were very interesting and informative.

COMMITTEE VOICE

Hispanic Committee

Activities:

1. The Hispanic volunteers will begin a permanent Pastoral formation (F.P.L.H.) for leaders and future leaders on Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

June 16 – the Sacrament of Baptism.
August 4 – Liturgy
November 10 – the Liturgical Year
January 2008 –
March 8, 2008 – RICA/Sacraments.
2. The meetings of the Hispanic Committee will be every two (2) months: July, September, November and December of 2007.
3. Proclaimers, ushers, acolytes and Eucharistic ministers will have Liturgical training on April 15, 2007 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.
4. Our Hispanic youths have a retreat (Encuentro) with other Hispanic youths from around the Diocese on Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th in Wakefield.
5. The Hispanic Committee offers to support the construction of the new building.
6. *We Walk By Faith*, second pillar had approximately 50 people attending.
7. Remember April 6th at 3:30 pm will be the last presentation of the stations of the cross represented by young adults.

Our next Council meeting will be held on April 24th at 7 pm with the Finance Council. The next Council meeting will be June 23, 2007 from 9 am – 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula A. Mierzwa
Secretary