

St. Augustine Catholic Church

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

February 28, 2006

Angy Acosta	Bill Knapp	Father Mike Schmied	Rosalia West
Katharine Anderson	Mary Lou Marple	Consuelo Segura	Rebecca Wood
Tracy Belcher	Paula Mierzwa	Alberto Torres	
Mike DeBruyn	Teresa Moiera	Amber Vojtecky	
Bunny Fitzpatrick	Anthony Sadowski	Margaret Warren	

Prayer and Reflection

Prayer and reflection was led by Tony, who read 2 Corinthians 5:29-6:2.

Parish Voice

Bill thanked Margaret for agreeing to extend her term to 2007.

The church bulletin will be updated to show Bill as the Chair of the Council.

Tony reported the Boy Scouts met with the Hispanic Committee on regards to the Boy Scouts Soccer League. They will meet again about this and get back to us. Alberto is trying to get children ages 7-10 years to play. There is money to cover the cost of 20 children to play in this league, which is open to all Cub Scouts. Father Mike likes the program and stated that all adults who work with this group must attend VIRITUS training classes. We need to budget money to work on the playing field because the ground behind the church is very uneven.

Mary Lou reminded us about the problem Carol brought up last month regarding volunteers who sign up to work in the nursery during mass aren't showing up. It was determined that this issue falls under the Worship Committee. The people who volunteer for this ministry need to get with the Worship Committee to work this problem out. Father Mike stated this has gone back and forth between Christian Formation and the Worship Committee. He agrees this issue should be handled by the Worship Committee. Someone talked with the Worship Committee about painting and cleaning the nursery and this has been done.

Name tags have come in for the Council, but must be corrected because "Pastoral" was spelled incorrectly.

There was also an issue with construction not being cleaned up, but this has been taken care of.

Alberto reminded us of the issue of alcohol being consumed at a recent wedding reception in the church hall, which resulted in the police being called. There has to be some controls if alcohol is to be served at these functions. Father Mike related that from now on, the church will be responsible for seeing that police officers are at these functions and the party renting the hall will be billed for their time.

Alberto let us know that on March 7th, there will be a march in DC in regards to the new laws for immigration that have been proposed. There will be buses leaving here for DC on that day. If these laws pass, it will be a criminal offense if you help an illegal immigrant. The Senate is scheduled to vote on this March 27th. The General Assembly has been conservative about this issue, however, it is a National issue.

Also, April 4th is National Catholic Day.

Father Mike advised that after Easter, *We Live By Faith* will be out to all councils to develop a specific word, worship-community and service. This will really kick in next Advent.

Approval of January 24, 2005 Minutes

The minutes for January 24th were approved with a couple of changes.

Building Committee Update

Tony advised the first meeting was held on February 2nd and the next meeting will be held next Thursday, March 9th. The land has already perked. There is talk about the size of the new addition (4,000-6,000 sq. ft.). This addition will be built towards Beulah Church and will be used for administrative people with additional space. The old administrative building will be converted to storage space upstairs and kitchen, etc., downstairs. Father Mike reminded us in 1994, the Parish developed a 3-phase plan for the church.

Bunny brought up the fact that we need to have a commercial grade building this time. Beulah Church has a quality about it that we lack. We have cracked floors, a leaky roof, etc. Mike was concerned with how the addition is being created. It needs to fit in with the existing building. Both groups need to work together on this issue. Tony should have more information after next week's meeting.

Father Mike advised that the original task force will evolve into a smaller and more focused group for this phase. Things will flow better if we are all on the same page. Everything will come back to the Council.

Safe Environment Committee

This committee should be made up of 3-7 members and all must attend VIRTUS training. This committee should be changed on an annual basis, including both staff and volunteers. The committee was made up of Rebecca, Katharine and Carolyn as of January 2006. This committee has to be responsible for the protection of children as well as adults and must work with Buildings and Grounds. We need handicapped access, lighting and sound.

Giving Thanks Volunteers Dinner

Several volunteers thanked Bill personally for the dinner. The aim was to feed 375 people. The count was 275-300 persons being fed. The cost was \$837.34, including decorations. Teens came in on Thursday to bake cookies for the dinner. The slide presentation was liked to fill in "space". Katharine was concerned with the issue of people not having their tickets. They thought if they lost them, they could not attend the function. They also wanted to know what it cost? Evidently, with having to have tickets to enter, they thought they had to purchase the tickets. Father Mike was asked why the committee chairs didn't issue a personal invitation to their committee members.

Tony thinks next year's dinner should be held after the first of the year to include anyone that may have helped out with Christmas. Maybe we could have it between Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras. Lent will begin on February 21st next year. It was decided that the dinner will be held next year on February 17th. More details to come.

Several things need to be better next year. We need a **dedicated** clean up committee. We also need a better schedule for serving dinner. Maybe we could serve continuously from 5 pm until 8 pm. We need money in the Council budget for next year.

PPC Work Day

There will be a PPC Work Day on March 18th to work on the 3-Year Plan. The question was asked, "If all committees will be represented?" Some committees don't have a chair. They have members, but no one wants to be the chair. Bill will start attending other meetings to see what he can gather. He will give them his e-mail address to see if anyone responds to this issue.

Committee Voice

Stewardship Committee:

Mary Lou stated 117 financial forms and 94 time and talent forms have been received as of this date. She cannot do another Stewardship Fair again in February because due to the weather, very few people show up. She would like to have discernment done in the classrooms and she can use the hall for Stewardship.

Discernment this year will be October 28 and 29. Not everyone fills out a form and there is a database to keep updated. She would like to put a "thank you" in the bulletin to those who return the forms. Maybe this would make others turn in their sheets. Some think they have been on this committee for so long, they don't need to fill out a form...it's understood they will be there.

Alberto suggested there be a workshop for stewardship informing parishioners as to when, where and how long the commitment and meetings will be. Mary Lou said that is the same as the fair. Maybe we could include in the catalogue how often they will be needed for each "job". Then they can decide if they have time for any of these committees.

Maybe 2-3 minutes could be used after announcements for each committee to explain what is involved with their committee and highlight them every week. We need to have new faces on each committee. She thinks it would be great to have everyone on Council bring a new person to Stewardship!

Hispanic Committee:

We will have the following activities:

- Viacrucis – March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31
- Viacrucis – April 7 and 10 (April 10 – live viacrucis)
- Lenten Soup Suppers – March 29 - Welcoming the Stranger – Slides from CFCA trip to Guatemala with Narrative.

During the month of February we had a VIRTUS class. We participated with CARITAS on February 20th. We created a sub-committee for the celebration of the St. Augustine Feast on August 26, 2006. The sub-committee will have a meeting on March 14 at 7:30 pm. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please feel free to send those to my E-mail address – sabanasanta@aol.com. If you want to join the committee, you are invited. We need the collaboration of the Pastoral Council and all the ministries of the parish. I think that we can work together for a lasting impact in our St. Augustine community. Also, during our Hispanic Committee meeting, we were visited by Tony Sadowski. He shared information about Fútbol Soccer Scouting. We are in process of recruiting children, ages 7 to 10 and are looking for somebody in our community to train and be the coach of this group. In the other hand, the Young Adults will have the VIII Encuentro Juvenil Hispano (The VIII Juvenile Conference) – March 25-26, 2006 at the Airfield Conference Center in Wakefield. The slogan for that day will be " Tejiendo el Futuro Juntos" ("Knitting the Future Together").

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula A. Mierzwa
Secretary