

St. Augustine Catholic Church

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

March 28, 2006

Angy Acosta	Mary Lou Marple	Father Mike Schmied	Rosalia West
Katharine Anderson	Carole Maxwell	Steve O'Leary	Rebecca Wood
Tracy Belcher	Paula Mierzwa	Aberto Torres	
Bunny Fitzpatrick	Teresa Moiera	Amber Vojtecky	
Bill Knapp	Anthony Sadowski	Margaret Warren	

George Cranford, our web master, was our guest. He came to see if there was anything on the website we would like to change. When he gets the updated minutes from Bill, he puts them on the website. Father Mike asked if he could do Spanish on the web page. George said this was possible, but he can't read Spanish. Maybe the Hispanic Committee could send him something.

Prayer and Reflection

Bill led prayer and reflection.

Parish Voice

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

Tony reported there are 19 children signed up for the Boy Scouts Soccer League. The registration is covered for these children. Uniforms are needed and are \$25 each. Maybe the Knights of Columbus can donate the money to cover the uniforms. This will be checked into and reported on at the next meeting. Tony advised there is a need for a bilingual person to work with the Boy Scouts at a rate of \$10 per hour.

There were several issues at the last meeting: The construction mess was cleaned up. There will be police officers at all functions where alcohol is consumed. Bunny advised the individuals that were supposed to meet with the Worship Committee in regards to covering the nursery during mass did not show up.

Alberto reported on the march in DC on March 7th in regards to the new laws for immigration that have been proposed. It will not be a criminal offense if you help an illegal immigrant. This bill went to the Senate on March 27th. The Senate and House now must iron out differences with this bill.

Name tags were handed out by Bill to Council members.

Mary Lou was asked by Father Mike to explain National Catholic Advocacy Day, which is April 4th.

Father Mike advised that after Pentecost, *We Walk By Faith* will be out to all Parish Councils to develop a specific word, worship-community and service. This must get to the parishioners.

Bill responded to an e-mail he received about the crowd and confusion at the Ash Wednesday service, asking if they would like to talk about this issue. Bill got no response from this parishioner. Bunny thinks there were certain issues that needed to be addressed even before this e-mail, and advised they will be addressed. There was no mass coordinator because it was not a "mass" and the whole service "fell apart". Bill talked with the ushers and they realize they didn't know exactly what they were doing.

On the choir issue, they are using a different route to take communion, as this seemed to be disrespectful of the altar to some people. There was a problem getting back to the choir pews, but this helps.

Carole asked if Father Mike or Father Paddy need to address this at mass. Father Mike replied the undertones are disturbing. All churches are dealing with this issue. Bill has copies of all e-mails...the core is we have a problem, let's fix it. Maybe we need a type of training to help with this issue. Father

Mike thinks this could be an event sponsored by the Council. We need to be better prepared for the crowds, talking during mass, children running up and down the aisles during mass, etc. If we don't do something now, the issues will only get worse. These issues need to be fixed before the Good Friday liturgy.

There has been talk that the Bishop has planned for St. Augustine to become a Hispanic parish. Father Mike said this was simply not true. There are three parishes that have Spanish masses: Sacred Heart, St. John's and St. Augustine. There is work on having more parishes speaking Spanish.

Approval of February 28, 2006 Minutes

The minutes for February 28th were approved with minor changes.

Building Steering Committee Update

Tony advised we need a new building. What are we going to do with the old building? He will have more for us at the April meeting.

Safe Environment Committee

Katharine advised there is a need for a fourth person from Christian Formation to help with this.

PPC Workday

This workday was postponed. Bill said we may not be able to schedule another workday because of everyone's schedule. Steve suggested we have sub-committees to discuss these issues. These committees will meet during the next meeting for about 30 minutes.

1. Youth – Lia, Rebecca and Amber
2. Space – Alberto and Tony
3. Staffing – Katharine
4. Community Faith Formation – Carole (This will start next year and will include training the parents to teach the children at home.)
5. Hospitality – Bill and Teresa
6. Multi-Cultural – Amber, Rebecca and Margaret
7. Stewardship – Mary Lou & Steve

Committee Voice

Stewardship Committee:

Mary Lou stated there was a lot of response to the letters to Senators handed out at the masses last weekend. There are approximately 1,000 of each letter.

Hispanic Committee:

We will have the following activities:

- Vacation trip on August 19, 2006 – we created sub-committee. This will be a trip to Luray Caverns.
- Our annual retreat – on June 24, 2006 – we created a sub-committee.
- St. Augustine Feast – we had our first meeting on 3/15/06. We will have another meeting on 4/21/06. If you have any ideas, please send an e-mail to sabanasanta@aol.com.
- We are celebrating Mother's day –on May 14, 2006- we created a sub-committee already.
- Members of our Hispanic Committee are participating with the Picnic committee.
- Lenten Soup – on March 29, 2006.

- There were like 30 high school students representing St. Augustine during the Diocese Ecentro celebrated on March 25 and 26 in Wakefield.

We are planning a celebration for the St. Augustine Feast...in English on August 26th and in Spanish on August 27th. Possible events to include soccer game, pig roast in coordination with a Bilingual mass. Bill is checking with a friend to get information on prices, how many people a pig can feed, etc.

We continue our Via Crucis every Friday – in some cases we had attendance of more than 50 people.

The next meeting will be April 25th with the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula A. Mierzwa
Secretary