

# ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

July 26, 2005

Angy Acosta  
DJ Belcher  
Tracy Belcher  
Father Paddy Cannon

Mary Lou Marple  
Paula Mierzwa  
Richard Poprik  
Fidel Rubio

Susan Ruppel  
Father Mike Schmied  
Consuelo Segura  
Sarah Spain

Christian Toro  
Alberto R. Torres  
Rosalia West

Guests were (1) Dick Thackston of St. Augustine's Finance Council and (2) Tim Belinski, a parishioner.

Prayer and reflection was based on the Gospel reading for July 24, 2005, Matthew 13:44-46. The question of the week was: "What would you be willing to "sell," or do without, in order to achieve your dreams for yourself or your family?"

### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING

Dick Thackston attended the meeting to present the history of our Church's past expansion and current needs and considerations. The original plans for our expansion consisted of three phases: Phase 1A through 1E, Phase 2, and Phase 3. Phase 1 of the Plan also called for four additional classrooms to be constructed on the second floor. The building code would have required an elevator to be installed to provide access for individuals who are unable to use stairs. The plan was modified to create two additional small classrooms on the first floor and the second floor space was converted into an attic.

Phases 2 and 3 were planned to meet both short-term and long-term needs. The total cost for Phase 1 was \$1.3 million. Today, the original plans for Phases 2 and 3 would cost approximately \$1.5 to \$2.0 million—an amount seen as prohibitive. The existing office building is "grandfathered" and is not required to have sprinklers, external fire escapes or an elevator. However, any new construction would have to take into consideration these items. One suggestion proposed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee was to consider demolishing the existing office building and starting over. This option was considered and deemed too expensive.

Two architects have been contacted for Phase 3 but no one has been hired to date. These architects are supposed to get in touch with Father Mike next week. The architects will help with a feasibility study. As we go forward, they will interview staff and other sources for input on the space needs.

It was determined that we need to have a "Task Force" to meet on this issue. Sarah, DJ and Alberto will serve on this task force. DJ will be responsible to see that they meet by September. Richard will be advised of the time and location for this meeting. The task force would identify people from the parish to serve on a sub-committee for current construction plans. This sub-committee would be expected to consist of three parish members, members of staff, Council members and Finance Committee members. Father Mike would like to see Committee Chairs/members and the Finance Council on this Task Force. The Task Force should be prepared to update Council on progress to date at the September meeting. (There will be no meeting in August.)

The Council has allowed its own 3-Year Plan to languish. Two years have passed since the plan was last updated. Classrooms, work areas, and other space needs must be considered. Council must consider how to achieve the space needs of the parish community.

### PARISH VOICE

A parishioner wanted to know if speakers could be placed in the nursery in order for the nursery workers to hear mass. DJ said this was in the works, but was delayed when action on the Church's sound system was

put on hold due to Deacon Corrigan's illness. Angy said that at one time James Price had offered to pay for this project if it was done. That was about one year ago. Angy will contact Mr. Price about this again to see if the offer still stands. We may also consider the benefit of installing speakers in the Church Hall.

Another suggestion was that we pair up a sponsor—either an individual or a family—with a new parishioner. Taking this step would help the new member(s) feel more invited into the community, feel more linked with our church family, and provide them with a direct contact to ask questions.

## COMMITTEE VOICE

### Hispanic Committee:

- The Hispanic Committee arranged for Red Cross training on July 23, 2005. Fourteen people attended.
- A Liturgy of Healing was also held on July 23, 2005. The church was full, and the service was beautiful.
- At the Committee's invitation, Ms. Marlene Larios from Telamon Corporation came and spoke at the last Committee meeting. Telamon Corporation's mission is to advocate for people in need and to develop human potential by providing resources and creating opportunities in the communities that they serve. Telamon Corp. is a non-profit organization. Telamon offers a variety of educational and job training programs for migrant and seasonal farm workers according to their needs, interests, and experience.
- The Charismatic group will have a retreat on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October at the Roslyn Center.
- The Young Adults are getting ready for the Theological Summer retreat on July 30, 2005. Seven groups from seven parishes will participate. The gathering is connected with the "Encuentro" in Boston which will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2006.
- During the Spanish masses of July 24, 2005, Rodrigo Palencia and Alberto addressed the Hispanic portion of our community. They explained the importance of the mass collection every Sunday. They briefly went over how to dress appropriately when serving; they gave thanks to Father Mike and Father Paddy for the beautiful liturgy on July 23<sup>rd</sup>; and, they invited the parishioners to come to church and plant a tree behind our church. Twelve people participated in the tree planting. This was related to the retreat that was held on June 25, 2005.
- The Hispanic part of our community was celebrating their 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the St. Augustine Church. On July 25, 1999, the parishioners of Centro Guadalupe moved to join the St. Augustine parishioners.
- VIRTUS training was held in Spanish on July 26, 2005. Twenty-four people attended.
- July 25, 2005, was the sixth anniversary of the Hispanic Committee.

### Justice and Peace:

New Parishioner Mentors:

Mary Lou will send the name and address of one new parishioner/(family) to each Parish Pastoral Council member. Council members should call the family as soon as possible and identify himself or herself, welcome them to the parish, and invite them to an activity in the parish that the council member will be attending such as the Poor Box Breakfast.

Guatemala Trip:

The Guatemala trip was a good experience for all who attended. Thirteen of the people were from St. Augustine's. There will be a presentation and slide show scheduled for the parish in the near future for trip participants to provide in depth information about the trip and to share their stories.

## **ST. AUGUSTINE FEAST DAY**

This will be a pot-luck dinner. Food will be placed on tables in the Church Hall, where everyone will fill their plates. From there, people may choose to eat inside the Hall or outside at the picnic tables—there are nineteen picnic tables outside. There will be a soccer game before mass, which Juan Ortiz will provide the necessary equipment and facilitate. We plan to have some Algerian foods for everyone to sample. The bon fire will depend on the weather, drought conditions, and whether Chesterfield County will allow it. Mary Lou will arrange to obtain the liquor license for this event. Someone needs to volunteer to set up tables, set the food on the tables just before mass ends, sell the beer, and clean-up afterwards. Richard sent around a sign-up sheet for all of this.

## **REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS**

The By-Laws were accepted as amended and as discussed at our last meeting.

## **REVIEW OF MEETING**

The meeting ran over due to the extended time spent discussing Phase 3 of the construction plans, but it was very informative.

The minutes for the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with changes.

The next meeting will be on September 27th at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula A. Mierzwa, Secretary