

ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

October 25, 2005

Angy Acosta	William J. Knapp	Maria Elena Rosales	Amber Vojtecky
Katharine Anderson	Mary Lou Marple	Fidel Rubio	Margaret R. Warren
Tracy Belcher	Carole Maxwell	Susan Ruppel	Rosalia West
DJ Belcher	Paula Mierzwa	Anthony F. Sadowski	Rebecca Wood
Eileen Brown	Richard Poprik	Alberto R. Torres	

Our guest this week was Judith Carlson, our facilitator for the retreat.

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Prayer and reflection was based on the Gospel reading for October 23, 2005, Matthew 22:34-40. The question of the week was: "In a practical sense, what is one thing that would change in your life if you loved your neighbor as yourself?"

PARISH VOICE

- A member brought up the comments from last month about items in the attic being taken and used and, in some cases, not put back or the items have even been given away. The Worship Committee plans to send a letter to all committees to have more supervision as to what is "borrowed" from the attic. The point was raised that if there is a problem with one person, then this should be brought to that person's attention and not the rest of the committees or persons not abusing the attic items.

Bill asked the Council to consider who is responsible for this issue and whether this is even really a PPC issue. Richard will take the issue to the Buildings & Grounds Committee since they set rules and standards for the physical plant and this type of problem should be addressed by them.

- Another member raised the issue that people would like to have a better sound system in the church. DJ commented that we have \$10,000 in the budget for a new, updated system. DJ asked a professional what he thought and it was the professional's opinion that we only need to have the current system modified and a new system is unnecessary. The cost ought to be less than \$1,000. DJ will get approval from Father Mike to pursue this and will get back to us.

A member asked whether there was a sound system in the nursery. There is not at this time. One reason this has been requested in the past was to enable those working in the nursery to fulfill their Sunday obligations. The staff raised the point that working in the nursery is the ministry of those workers. The workers should be arranging their schedules to attend a separate mass to worship the Lord and fulfill their obligations. A member suggested that maybe we could have a system with headsets in order for the hard of hearing parishioners to better be able to follow the mass. DJ explained that this is being considered in the proposal for the improved system.

COMMITTEE VOICE

Christian Formation

Monday, November 14th and Tuesday, November 15th the families of children receiving Elementary Religious Education will be treated to dinner cooked by members of the parish. They will also spend a short time working on the theme for the night. They will be provided take home materials and ideas for both discussions and activities that they can do at home.

Children's Liturgy is now fully staffed with volunteers. A formation opportunity is scheduled for the near

future with Mary Kate Bergland. Mary Kate has written books used by many dioceses across the country. She works with children's ministry at St. Bridget Parish in Richmond.

Approximately 90 children are preparing this year for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Their parents receive ongoing formation in either English or Spanish during the children's class time. The parish Family Reconciliation will be celebrated on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 pm. Families will participate in an outreach activity on Saturday, December 3rd.

The next installment of Women Wondering is being planned for the near future. The topic is "The Mass...Then and Now."

The Rite of Acceptance was celebrated at the 9:00 am mass on Sunday, October 23rd. The parish welcomed eight (8) candidates for full initiation (those coming to us already baptized) and five (5) catechumen (those seeking baptism, confirmation and Eucharist in the church). We also have one (1) child catechumen who moved here and had already celebrated the rite in New Mexico.

The Tour of the Church will take place on Friday, December 2nd. This tour is given by the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults Team primarily for the RCIA folks but others can take advantage of this fun opportunity simply by calling Eileen and reserving a spot on the tour!

The Youth Group is sponsoring a pancake breakfast this Sunday, October 30th. The purchase price for adults is \$3.00 and for children it is \$2.00. Proceeds go to Katrina human survivors and displaced pets and a local outreach need.

Justice and Peace

Red Cross:

Great response to Hurricane Katrina to serve at Ft. Pickett, but we were not needed. Strong planning team formed. St. Augustine is an approved Red Cross Shelter. We have approximately 50 trained volunteers. Three (3) new volunteers were trained this past Saturday. Meeting held on October 19th to determine leadership for various tasks as outlined by the Red Cross: Shelter managers, Registration, Feeding, Dormitory, Logistics, Communication and Media, Health, Mental Health, and Volunteer Coordinators. We will be having a mock disaster each spring to refresh volunteers of what is involved if we are asked to serve as a shelter.

Care-a-Van:

Staff hosted a "thank you" luncheon for the Care-a-Van staff today, October 25th. The Care-a-Van comes to St. Augustine every Tuesday and the 3rd Sunday of the month. They will hold educational classes on Mondays from 9 am – 12 pm for diabetics and people with high blood pressure beginning in January. St. Augustine is the largest site and the site with the most cases of chronic disease.

Sowers of Justice:

A diocesan sponsored legislative advocacy forum. People from our Region came together to discuss issues of concern for the well being of humanity. The issues are brought to our attention under the auspices of Catholic Social Teaching and the Virginia Catholic Conference. Working groups are formed around particular issues of interest to a particular group of people. Catholic Advocacy Day at the Virginia General Assembly is January 30, 2006. More information will follow.

Outreach:

During the month of October, we have assisted three (3) parishioners, resourced a caseworker from RIS (Refugee & Immigration Services), referred 24 families to the food pantry, and resourced another six (6) families with a variety of needs. Katharine Anderson assists on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week from

10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Food Pantry:

Served 45 families in the month of October. Mary Ann Mazzio, coordinator of the food pantry, could use help unloading groceries that she purchases from Food Lion. Tony asked if we get food from the Virginia Food Bank. We do not because we have no space and we have lots of donations by parishioners and money to purchase groceries.

Work of Human Hands Bazaar:

We purchase the items on consignment. Items are crafted around the world. Proceeds are returned to the craftsmen. Consignment took place through Catholic Relief Services. We sold approximately \$800 worth of merchandise. Bazaar took place on October 1 and 2, 2005.

Giving Tree:

Goes up November 19th. Barbara Earley is the coordinator.

CARITAS:

February 18-25, 2005. Kathy Jones is the coordinator.

Prison Ministry:

First and third Saturdays at the Women's Diversion Center on Courthouse Road. This is an ecumenical program facilitated by Edith Byrnes and a group of St. Augustine parishioners.

Hispanic Committee

The Hispanic community ended observance of Hispanic Heritage Month with the visit of Bishop Francis Xavier DiLorenzo. During the Dinner and Dance Gala (Oct. 15, 2005), the Bishop had the opportunity to meet members of the Hispanic community. At least 273 people attend the dance. The music and entertainment were beautiful. The food was delicious. The Hispanic Committee thanks Teresa Moreira and all the volunteers that worked very hard on this activity. Funds were raised for the Church during this activity. They gave the Church \$3,554.00 after taking into account some expenses. A final report is in process. The Arts and Crafts Sale from Latin American Countries was held on October 2, 2005. According to Dalila, there were sales of at least \$700.00. The Exposition of Photographic & Video from Guatemala was held on October 9, 2005. The participation of the non-Hispanic community was noticeable during all these activities. Some members of the Hispanic community participated in the meeting with the Red Cross during this month.

The following activities are planned for the rest of the year:

- Virgen de Guadalupe Celebration – December 11, 2005
- Mañanitas de la Vigen de Guadalupe – December 12, 2005
- Virgen de la Concepción – December 8, 2005
- Christmas Celebration for our Hispanic volunteers – December 17, 2005
- Discernment of the new officers – November – During the Hispanic Committee meeting.
- Las Posadas – 16-24 December

The Hispanic Committee holds a separate Giving Thanks dinner for Hispanic volunteers. There were more than 200 people last year. A Council member asked why we don't, as one church, plan something for the whole church. If we're going to put something together, we all must plan for one function. We need to unite and think "globally: for the whole church.

RETREAT DETAILS

We were given directions to the retreat and staff checked the list for roommates. Ten members are going. We met Judy Carlson, the facilitator. Everything is expected to be finished around 3:30 pm as we will not be having a mass on the retreat this year. Discernment will take place on November 5th at 2:45 pm in Rooms 18-19 followed by introduction of all members at the 5:30 pm mass.

REVIEW OF MEETING

Generally, the meeting was good.

The minutes for the September 27th meeting were approved with changes.

The next meeting will be on November 29th at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula A. Mierzwa, Secretary