

Parish Council Meeting
June 23, 2007

Juan Chua	Carole Maxwell	Father Mike
Tony Sadowski	Alberto Torres	Angy Acosta
Margaret Warren	Katharine Anderson	Fidel Rubio
Rosalia West	Ester Velasco-Hispanic Committee	
Dick Thackston - Finance	Chris Corrigan-Worship	Vic Owen-Stewardship

On June 23, 2007, the quarterly Parish Council Meeting was called to order by Vice chair Alberto Torres at 9:00a.m. Also in attendance were Committee Chairs and/or representatives Dick Thackston, Ester Velasco, Vic Owens, and Chris Corrigan.

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Members adjourned to the Chapel for prayer and reflection led by Tony Sadowski. Members were asked to share moments when they evidenced a “blessing” in their lives. The members then reconvened in rooms 13/14 to continue the meeting.

BUILDING

Dick Thackston gave a financial overview focused on Phase II and Phase III. All Phase 2 building fund money is tax exempt and must be used exclusively for building. The Building Fund Campaign is tentatively scheduled to begin in October. Dick stated this may be postponed until January, 2008 based on establishing a Building Committee, selecting an architect and other variables. Some suggestions offered to jumpstart the building fund were: Pledge Coupon booklets for each parishioner as used in the 1994-95 campaign; Ester stated that the Hispanic community wants to support the fund both financially and human resources – i.e. Teresa is offering 10% of a day’s receipt from her restaurant business. Dick reiterated that our biggest issue relates to utilizing parish resources appropriately as well as cutting down cost.

STEWARDSHIP

Father Mike requested time for newly appointed Stewardship Chair, Vic Owen to give an overview. Vic was on the original Stewardship Committee and offered this definition of Stewardship – **GIVING BACK GIFTS GOD GAVE YOU**. There are 3 categories of stewardship: Time on Earth; Set of Talents; Money. Vic believes God expects us to give for the betterment of our fellow man not to the detriment of ourselves.

The 4 components for Stewardship are: DATA CLEANUP; EDUCATION- pastoral homilies, witnessing, talks; APPEAL: Asking for help – includes money, pledges to God of your time, talent, treasure. Appeals can be done monthly with one big Stewardship month; FOLLOW-UP when people

volunteer, person in charge of activity must follow-up with volunteer. Stewardship Drive-must follow-up with those who don't return the forms.

Stewardship is not a one-time gift, it must be on-going. We must also recognize the cultural differences between the Anglo and Hispanic communities.

CONSTITUTION

A review of the June 23, 2007 Constitution revisions resulted in several changes:

Article IV Committees

Written Reports The following change was made to each Committee Section
Present a quarterly written report **at least two weeks prior** to the Council **meeting** for its review showing the progress of its program and continued goals for the coming year(s) **with publication following council meeting**

Resource member title changed as follows:

Justice and Peace – Coordinator for Human Outreach and Justice and Peace
Parish Life; Safe Environment – Parish Business Manager

Budget Requests – Hispanic Committee & Safe Environment

Develop a budget request to be submitted to the Finance Council annually

Safe Environment Committee – need to change definition (Katharine will provide)

Article III – MEMBERSHIP Much discussion about size of Parish Council – number of at-large members (8 or 9), length of terms 3 years, and rotation off Council.

PARISH VOICE.

Jackie Mules, JoAnn Sharkey and Margaret Warren made a presentation on the Bon Secours Care-A-Van Reach Out and Read program which comes to St Augustine on Tuesdays. These volunteers want to conduct a book drive (children are many, but book are few) and were seeking the Council's support. Suggestions for getting the word out: make brief announcements from the Ambo at each Mass; include in bulletin

ST. AUGUSTINE FEAST

Feast date-August 25. Need coordinator from Council. Chris volunteered the Worship committee> Hispanic Committee and Worship Committee will coordinate activity.

DISCERNMENT

Bylaws require that 2 Council members are appointed to prepare discernment process. Appointees are Vic Owen and Margaret Warren. Chris Corrigan will also assist. Discernment will be in October.

Currently there are only 6 active at-large members: Juan, Carole, Tony, Alberto, Rebecca, Margaret. Amber resigned, Katharine is now staff and Bill Knapp has missed several meetings. Three of the six members' terms expire at the end of 2007. Who stays on and the number going off determines how many need to be discerned.

Some suggestions offered:

**Ask , at least 2 of the members (Tony, Alberto, Margaret) whose terms expire to extend for an additional year

**Invite at least 4 people to discern in October (backfill the positions)

**Father Mike-not discern this year, appoint 2 people instead to complete Bill and Katharine's terms

OTHER

Father Mike raised the concern-lack of sufficient Priest to services all the parishes in the Diocese. A new Diocesan planning process requests each parish to appoint 2 persons to a local planning committee. The designation form is due by July 31 (document CPG-8). It is recommended that we review the document very carefully. Alberto Torres and Chris Corrigan were appointed to the Local Planning Committee.

Father Paddy leaves July 4 and St. Augustine is not getting a replacement. The Bishop advised Father Mike to contact r3etired priest for assistance. Father Mike has contacted several and is requesting someone to alternate with him 9:00 and 11:00am Masses. An alternate solution is to use the Green Book – "Sunday Celebration in Absence of Priest". Any lay person can use the Green Book, however, Father Mike prefers to use Deacon Eric whenever possible. An African priest (name not given) at Holy Rosary has agreed to do some of the Saturday masses. To help alleviate this problem, Fidel said the Hispanic community will have only 4 Quinceañeras (Sweet Fifteens) celebrations in 2007 & 2008. Smaller parishes will suffer most due to Priest shortage. Many will be clustered and won't have a resident Priest .

Hispanic Committee

06/23/07

- The Liturgical Ministries had training on April 15, 2007 from 4:00 PM to 5:30 P.M. The facilitator was Father Michael Schmied. There was an attendance of 72 people. The Liturgical training was supported in part by the Director of Cult from our Diocese.
- On June 10th, we had the vigil of Corpus Christi.
- The "LIFE" program is being developed in the Hispanic Community. The Hispanic Committee needs to be involved in this organization next year.

- The first workshop of Pastoral Formation For Hispanic Leaders and futures leaders was held on June 16, 2007 from 9:00 A.M to 12:30 PM. The theme was The Sacrament of Baptism. It was facilitated by the Ministry of Baptism. The attendance included 40 leaders from different ministries.
- On August 4th, we will be having a second workshop of Pastoral Formation for Hispanic Leaders.
- On June 23rd and Sunday 24th, 2007. The Ministry of Charismatic is carrying out a Spiritual Retreat at the Abby. On August 18, the Hispanic Committee has been planning to go on a Field Trip. You are invited as well, to accompany our Hispanic Community.
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Ester Velasco.
First Chairperson.

Juan Chua
Co-Chairperson.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

During lunch we viewed a DVD on Immigration entitled “Dying to Live” . The title says it all and left most of us speechless. Katharine said the final vote on the Immigration bill is 6/25 or 6/26. If they don’t vote, the bill will die until after the election. She urged each of us to visit the websites- www.vacatholic.org to sign up. Websites can be found in the church Bulletin.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING-OCTOBER 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret R. Warren for Paula Mierzwa