

St. Augustine Catholic Church
Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
March 8, 2008

Danny Belcher
Eileen Brown
Chris Corrigan
Sandy Corrigan
Bunny Fitzpatrick

Craig Follis
Carol Hermesen
Kenny Martin
Carole Maxwell
Alan Ontiveros

Fidel Rubio
Father Mike Schmied
Brandon Tomnay
Alberto Torres
Oscar Cordova

Prayer and reflection

Alan Ontiveros led Prayer and reflection.

Questions

1. How can I bring God's love into our parish?
2. How can I get people to fill out the stewardship document?
3. Who have I talked to about stewardship?
4. How can I get people involved in our parish?
5. What can I accomplish this year in this parish council?
6. Who can I talk about new ideas for the parish?

Prayers

1. God give me your gifts so that I give to others.
2. Lord give me wisdom and courage to speak up in the parish council meeting.
3. Lord give me your blessings.
4. Lord give our parish your blessings.
5. Lord help me to no be afraid to talked to other people.
6. Lord fill me with your spirit.

Word Pillar

Chris outlined and recapped what was covered at the Retreat which was three of the four pillars of faith – Worship, Service and Community. He highlighted the importance of making sure St. Augustine carried out the survey and census offered to us by the Diocese.

Chris then led a session covering the final (or first) pillar – Word. Suggestions were sought for ways of spreading the word through education within the church. Chris will write all these suggestion up and add to the document produced after the retreat.

Survey and Census

A sub-committee consisting of Vic, Alan, Craig, Oscar, and Alberto was formed at the retreat. This committee will plan and implement the process. It was pointed out that (so

far) there had been a poor response to the stewardship forms so there was some concern as to what the response would be to this. The response should be very much improved as the congregation will be asked to complete the forms during Mass. The announcements to inform the parish about this will take place at all masses on May 3 and May 4. The survey will be completed at all English masses on May 10 and May 11 with a second chance on May 17 and May 18; and at all Spanish Masses on May 18 and May 25. The sub-committee will meet on March 24 at 7pm in the education wing.

Short-Term Stewardship

Alberto led from the list drawn up from the retreat.

- Vision - Explain why we are doing some of the things we do: Eileen stated this was already now in place.
- Stronger greetings before Mass from ushers: Bunny will work on this with the Worship Committee.
- Plan and conduct a census of the community (who's active/inactive) and the survey: sub-committee will meet and prepare for this to happen.
- Re-emphasis priorities: as with vision, ongoing.
- Document and demonstrate targeted behaviors: Behavior sub-committee consisting of Bunny, Kenny, Margaret and Katharine was created at the retreat. Meeting date, time and place to be announced.
- Youth Council adult participation and support of youth activities, spiritual services and socials: Chris and Sandy offered to give more support to the group. It was suggested that regular youth masses be held.

Parish Voice

An email had been received complaining about the lack of respect given when returning kneelers during Mass. Instead of placing them gently back to their original position many of the congregation slam them, therefore, causing a lot of unnecessary noise and interrupting the flow of Mass. No suggestions were given on how to improve this.

Other Matters

How to bring the parish together? Ideas included:

- Serving coffee and doughnuts after all masses. The Knights of Columbus are willing to help with this.
- Cheese and Wine Social.
- Volunteer Thank You Dinner – suggested to be held in February.

It was noted that it's difficult to hold large parish events because we don't have a big enough space for everyone to be together. The only time to do this is the Annual Parish Picnic as it's held outside.

Eileen volunteered to draw up a "family tree" showing the structure of the Parish Council to all the standing committees. This will show where we have need for volunteers. It can also be used to amend the constitution if needed.

Reports were received from Justice and Peace, Finance Council and Stewardship Committee. Request to speak to the PPC and reports formats were distributed.

The PPC will meet with the Finance Council at 7pm on April 22 to review the budget.

All other matters were held over to the June meeting.

Meeting closed after prayer at 1:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carole P. Maxwell
Member at Large