

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

January 23, 2017

Members Present: Chuck Simpson, Ruth Huddle, Tim Koerber, Fr, Charles Deeney

Guests Present: Ellen Simpson, Christine Stillings, Diane Hoy, Diane Rieves, Margaret Hettler

Council meeting called to order at 6:32 by new council president Chuck Simpson

Father Charlie opened the meeting with a prayer. The prayer was a call to peace .

The minutes of the last council were reviewed, accepted, seconded by Fr. Charlie and approved. Ellen Simpson offered to take messages for Chuck whenever it is necessary.

Pastoral Council Membership

Chuck Simpson noted that the parish constitution required a council quorum of 15 and that the meeting was 9 members short of quorum. Meeting was thus conducted as a “committee of the whole”. This underscored the need for new members. Father Charlie said that he will announce a call for members from the pulpit at the masses this weekend. He also suggested that he write a letter of invitation to each ministry head (Council of Catholic Women, Knights of Columbus, Food Pantry, Facilities, etc.) and that he would also invite leaders from the various communities within the Parish.

Parish Calendar

Diane Rieves, representing the Council of Catholic Women, noted that meeting conflicts arise and wondered if there is a comprehensive Parish Ministry calendar so meeting times can be coordinated. Margaret Hettler noted that the calendar is accessible from the Parish website, but no one was certain how far the calendar extends (outlook). It was mentioned that a few months outlook would be helpful with major events listed as soon as they are set up. Caroline McCauley maintains the calendar. A further suggestion was made to ensure that a few hard copies of the current calendar are available at all times in the front office for Parishioners who do not have web or email access. It was also suggested and accepted that a copy of the calendar would be posted in the display kiosk outside the sanctuary.

Action: Contract Caroline McCauley for calendar update frequency, how far the calendar “outlooks” on the website, printing copies for the office and posting in the display kiosk – Tim Koerber will coordinate with Margaret and contact Caroline.

Recent Parish Activities

Diane Hoy reported on the successful Santa's Workshop that was held in December. All communities within the parish were well represented. The decorations were excellent as was the support of the youth group teens. Everyone who volunteered were extremely helpful and made the event a fun time as well as a great success. Many requests were received to repeat the event next year.

Christine Stillings reported that the youth group held a bonfire which was attended by Fr. Charlie. A Sunday evening youth mass is planned and should start soon.

Dianne Hoy distributed an update to the Parish mission statement (attached) which has been accepted by the parish leadership. A new plaque bearing the statement will be displayed in the sanctuary. Margaret noted that the hallway where plaques and awards are currently displayed is being redone. No timeframe was mentioned.

New Council Officers

Chuck Simpson recommended acceptance of the new council officers:

President, Chuck Simpson; Vice President, Ruth Huddle; Secretary, Tim Koerber

The motion was seconded by Fr. Charlie and approved.

All Your Heart

Christine Stillings reported on the "All Your Heart" activities. "Heart to Witness" has been ongoing as individuals participate in sharing faith stories and how our relationship to God can be shared with others. Christine stressed the need for core team members to further this important aspect of adult faith growth as "Heart to Prayer" is starting soon.

Council of Catholic Women

Diane Rieves also reported that the Council of Catholic Women were extremely successful with the Christmas basket activity and that it raised funds that were shared with the food pantry and others.

General Discussion

Fr. Charlie reported that the Air Conditioner outside the office building was stolen. It was secured, but the thieves were able to steal it anyway. A replacement is being arranged and increased security will be looked into.

The council then discussed an incident at the 6:00 Christmas mass at the entrance to route 441 where a vehicular accident occurred. The incident occurred despite the presence of a police cruiser with lights flashing and an officer directing traffic. It was noted that drivers routinely exceed the speed limit as they proceed south on 441 after the Sheeler Road traffic light. The 45 mph speed limit seems somewhat excessive in that area, especially near the entrance of the church. The situation was discussed further and it was noted that an additional traffic light at the church entrance would likely be expensive (~\$200K) and the cost borne by the parish. Additional signage and a reduction of the speed limit in the area was also discussed. The council

resolved to write a letter to the Apopka city council bringing the situation to their attention and requesting a formal response.

Action: Draft Letter for Fr. Charlie's review – Tim Koerber and Chuck Simpson.

Margaret Hettler reported that she has been contacted by Guidebook Publishing regarding the potential Parish ministry directory. It was agreed to table further discussion until the council membership shortages have been resolved and a quorum is achieved.

Motion to adjourn was accepted, seconded by Ruth Huddle and approved.

The meeting was concluded with a prayer from Fr. Charlie.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Koerber, Secretary, St Francis of Assisi Parish Council.