

St. Ignatius of Antioch Pastoral Council Minutes

October 11, 2022

Present: Father Robert Rien, Will Avitabile, Catherine Vidaurri, Kaitie and Lucky Thammalangsy, and Steve Andreatta. Stephen Rojek arrived late and Reggie Desmond was absent. Lemuel Del Castillo joined us as a prospective member.

Father Robert greeted our guest, Lemuel del Castillo, by explaining the function of the two councils, Finance and Pastoral.

Corrections were necessary to the lineup of Adult Faith Formation presenters on the upcoming calendar. Susannah Nelson will lead a class on Catholic Social Justice, and Carol Krantz, Women's Spirituality.

Minutes were approved for the previous month's meeting. There was no report included for the previous Finance meeting, as no PC member was able to attend, however, Father summarized the recent Pastoral Staff meeting.

Father revealed plans for the Parish Retreat led by Fr. Jude Siciliano O.P. and Sr. Patricia Bruno O.P. to be given over three days, November 28-30, with Mass and scripture class each morning until 9:45 AM, and community prayer and reflection at 7:00 PM.

The council agreed that our recent Ministry Fair was a success, and ideas were offered for improvement next year. The challenge is to entice Mass goers to stop and have conversations with ministry representatives, and to that end, a broader offering of refreshments was suggested, such as hot dogs for the children, thus keeping them occupied so the parents could peruse the displays and sign contact sheets.

Though an exact tally of profits from the Gala Dinner and the Sunday festival was not yet available, a favorable result was projected, and enthusiastic approval was given to the breakfast and ethnic food offerings. In particular, parishioners were appreciative of the comfortable new upholstered dining chairs.

Pastoral Council had offered hospitality after 4 PM Mass on October 1st, a new endeavor with positive reviews by those of us participating. In answer to Katie's ideas, wine, juices, charcuterie, cheese and cookies were served out on the gathering plaza, and though not everyone stopped to visit, there were a number who did, and who appreciated our efforts. Council members present agreed that it was worth the effort, and discussion ensued about how we could continue during the upcoming colder, darker months. Father, knowing his parishioners' habits, forewarned us to keep the reception outside in front, as guests would not be amenable to retreat to the parish hall.

Though Reggie was not present, she relayed to Will a requested agenda item from a family present at her Beer 'n Brats table, where a discussion took place during which the guests communicated to her a deep resentment at being charged the newly approved fees for private use of the Social Hall and kitchen (funerals, parties, weddings). Father replied that these costs are very reasonable when compared with rent at other city venues, and explained that in order to protect and properly maintain our 1.7 million dollar investment, the charges would have to be non-negotiable and levied without favoritism. Parish groups and ministries would not be charged.

Father reported on the State of the Parish quite favorably, with 1000 families being registered, the Sunday collection growing, the bills covered, and a decent response to youth and adult offerings made by Faith Formation when other churches are scheduling far fewer opportunities. Will suggested introducing the various class and group moderators to the congregation from the ambo at the conclusion of Mass, in order that their faces and course descriptions might be more fully received, rather than just announcing them in the parish newsletter. Father concluded by reminding us that we are entering a very busy season, with funerals scheduled at this time through mid-November, and liturgies having to be planned already through January.

We are awaiting MAP results, and news may be available at the October 25th meeting Father will attend with Bishop Barber. It is conjectured that we will merge with Holy Rosary, and due to inevitable movement of clergy at that time, Father is unsure what his tenure with us will be. If the two parishes merge, so will the Pastoral and Finance councils of each, along with Faith Formation. This hopefully will be little cause for worry, because St. Vincent de Paul (with 231 families to support) and YLI for both parishes have been collaborating for some time, though the criteria for closing or merging parishes is presently closely guarded. The explanation of MAP was lengthy, as Lemuel was unfamiliar with it.

Opening and closing prayers were assigned for November, and the meeting concluded at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherin Vidaurri for Reggie Desmond