

St. Anne's Pastoral Council Meeting

June 20, 2013

In attendance: Father Brandon Ware, Fr. Bill Kraft, Deacon Greg Yeager, Annette Murdaca, Glenn Lewis, Joan Cahill, Donna Dominguez, Cheri Evans, Frank Flores, Juan Herrera, Jose Ordaz, Anna Molina, Saul Molina, Laura Sandoval

The meeting opened with Adoration, Evening Prayer, and Benediction in the chapel.

The business meeting began with the request from Council Chairperson, Annette Murdaca, for the approval as-written of the May minutes.

Joan Cahill made the motion to approve the minutes and Glenn Lewis made the second. The minutes were approved as written.

Finance Council Report: Tom Driscoll unable to attend/no report

Committee Reports:

Thornton Report: Laura Sandoval reported that the blue prints for the "capella" project are on display for the parishioners to view along with donation envelopes present; to date, no formal announcement of the project has been made; they received the Bishop's approval and construction is slated to begin in early August of this year; they currently have 80% of the cost for the capella funded; they are still deciding on a name for the structure. As an incentive to parishioners to submit potential names, Annette Murdaca graciously offered a prize of a \$100 Pietro's Gift Certificate to the person submitting the selected name.

Petal Ministry: Donna Dominguez reported that the annual Petal Ministries Day of Appreciation and Reflection will be on August 3rd. Invitations will be sent out.

Youth Ministry Report: Donna Dominguez advised the council that the Youth & Young Adult Ministry is seeking approval from all of the leadership teams in the parish to add in the Fall the Edge Program which involves youth in grades 7-8. They are also considering the inclusion of 6th grade youth. The program addresses Spanish and English youth together, not as individual groups. Members of the council were in favor of this addition agreeing that the future of the Church and our parish lies with the youth.

Pastor's Report

Fr. Brandon began by sharing with us his vision of bringing “unity” to the St. Anne’s community. He reflected on scripture from John 17:20-23 and the words of Pope Francis on Pentecost 2013, both having regard to unity. John’s words were with regard to the members of the Church being one as Jesus and the Father are one, and that we are also one with them. Pope Francis spoke of the Holy Spirit being the Spirit of unity and who creates harmony because, if guided by the Holy Spirit, “richness, variety and diversity never become a source of conflict, because he impels us to experience variety with the communion of the Church.” Members of the council were also given these words in a handout, the same handout given to the chair people of the Petal ministries to assist them in revising their individual mission statements to reflect our parish goal of unity.

Fr. Brandon went on to say that the members of the Church should enrich each other’s lives. He gave the example of the Spanish enriching the Anglos and the Anglos enriching the Spanish. We are all part of the same Body. Father further expressed that the Petal ministries are no longer autonomous, but part of something greater. Each Petal and its ministries have a designated month for promotion and recruitment.

Fr. Brandon emphasized that service leads to unity. Annette suggested that he develop a “catch phrase” to promote this concept. This led to a brainstorming of potential phrases such as: Service creates unity that celebrates diversity and Diversity united through service. This further led to a discussion of the inclusion or exclusion of the word “diversity” when speaking of unity. Most agreed that it should be excluded. Father also stated that unity should not be a standalone word/concept, citing that events in the parish should not be just Spanish or just English events.

Homeless Women’s Drop-in Center:

Father Brandon and Deacon Greg indicated that they are looking for a location near the downtown area that is approximately 1200-1500 sq. ft. Annette asked if it would be possible to use the present house on site as a rental for graduates from Lodi House to allow them to get back on their feet. It will be taken under advisement.

Community Plaza Project:

Annette Murdaca reported that the Fundraising Committee’s goal was to raise \$880,000 by September. They need \$375,000 and they will have met this goal. Members of the council

were presented with donation/pledge forms and envelopes and asked to submit them by June 30th to the parish office. The parish capital campaign will begin in September with the goal of raising \$220,000. Annette expressed that the matching grant concept initiated by the Mexican-American Catholic Federation has taken flight. In confidence, Annette and Fr. Brandon announced a wine and cheese “Sneak Peak” event to be held in August, in which the top 200-300 donors donating \$1000 or more will be allowed to view the design of the project in full detail. They also shared that there will be available for a donation of \$25,000 life-size Stations of the Cross with donor identification on them. After the September capital campaign kickoff, the option of on-line donation will be available through the parish website.

Best Practices in Parish Stewardship

The council engaged in a discussion of Chapters 3 & 4 from the book. Most expressed that they are learning a lot from the book. Annette expressed that it takes a conversion of heart to offer our first fruits to the Church. Frank stated that we need to emphasize that first fruits include not just a donation of money but time and talent as well. Other suggestions rising from the discussion included: ministries keeping track of their service hours; on Ministry Sunday’s asking those present in the congregation from the individual ministries presented to stand and be affirmed; to itemize in the bulletin not only what is collected each week, but to also share the parish expenses so that parishioners have a better idea of what it takes financially to operate the parish; ministry representatives should attend each other’s meetings to share their needs of time, talent, and treasure; as events are published in the bulletin, specify the time, talents, and treasure that are needed from the parish for the event.

Our homework is to finish the book prior to our next meeting.

The next meeting will be August 15, 2013 at 7:00PM.

The meeting closed in prayer lead by Glenn Lewis.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cheri Evans.