

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes - February 3, 2010

If you have any questions or concerns for the Pastoral Council, you can contact the Council at the link found on our parish website: nativitycatholicchurch.org

Meeting was opened by Fr. Proulx with a scripture reading and reflection.

Janet Caraballo introduced our new member Denisse Rolita, who will be filling the vacancy of Antonio Cartagena. Irma Reyes, who is the Hispanic Council Secretary; will fill in when Arturo Rivera is unavailable, both women are very active in the Hispanic Community. Our guest Mel Obasi was also introduced and all council members introduced themselves.

Faith Community Nursing – Mel Obasi - This is a Christian ministry of volunteer Registered Nurses. The ministry was developed by a nun from Chicago in 1980 and is now a National Organization. They have their own resources that are used to help educate parishioners and their focus is to bridge the medical with the spiritual. It encompasses all religions not only Catholics and falls under Bay Care Health Services. Mel had the opportunity to speak to the nurses that helped during Novemberfest and many of them are willing to help with the new ministry. The nurses will be available 24/7. This will fall under Pastoral Care. A bulletin board with more information will be setup in the Social Hall. Mel was asked to put a plan together of how it would work in our parish and come back next month to give us an update.

Fr. Proulx's Report - Our parish has collected and sent \$52,000.00 to Haiti and additional donations are still being received. Just today a group of children brought money into the church office. Our Diocese has sent over \$1,000,000.00 to help the Haitians. Some parishioners have contacted the church office stating their parish pay year end statement was incorrect. They will receive a letter of apology with the corrections.

The maintenance group has been reconstructed and they will be working, not only on weekdays but also on Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Safe Environment training is now good for 5 years.

Neighborhood Evangelization - The committee went door to door on one street in our area and they invited both Hispanic and English speaking people for a get-together. A meeting is set up for February 4th in our parish hall. The evangelization effort was a remarkable success and a virtual tour is being planned to be shown in the church.

Marriage Preparation – Deacon Mark Taylor - Deacon Taylor said the first thing couples are asked to do is to fill out a Focus Inventory. He then reviews the information with each couple, after which they have the opportunity to attend an Engaged Couples Weekend. 70% of those interviewed get married here at Nativity. He also assists with Convalidations of marriages and annulments. It takes approximately 1 year for this process to be completed. Deacon Taylor has been a tremendous help to our parish

SCRIP – Sue Mokris - This project is moving along very slow. Once the parishioners become familiar with the program it will become a good source of profit to the parish with no additional cost to the parishioners. A safe that can be secured to the floor will be installed in the Social Hall to keep the SCRIP cards safe until they can be picked up. Sue and her volunteers will be in the social hall after Masses to show parishioners how easy it is to do. They will also be putting the information on the Website. A sheet was passed out for council members to select a time to assist after masses.

Update – Dee LoPresti

Ministry of Presence – The council reviewed a letter that had been sent to all parish organizations by Claudeen Boyd. In the letter she asked if the organizations would like to be informed of upcoming funerals so they could have the opportunity to attend the funeral Mass or just say a prayer for the deceased and their family. She has received 13 responses. Fr. Proulx was very happy that this is being done.

A number of parishioners have volunteered to teach English to our non English speaking community. Janet Caraballo will contact these people to make plans for starting this project.

Updates – Janet Caraballo

The council received a request from Vicki Hawkins to help set up and assist with refreshments for the Parish Mission. Volunteers are needed to set up before and after the evening mission. She also needs people to help after the 8 a.m. Mass. The mission takes place from February 22nd thru 25th. A sheet was passed out to the members for them to select a time to help.

A date of June 5th was set for commissioning of new members after the yearly selection.

Date of next meeting is Monday, March 15th.

Roundtable: Virginia Baum reported there had been 2 inquiries in the suggestion box. It was asked if we could put children's books in the library, this will be implemented when possible. It was also suggested that the priests distribute communion at different locations throughout the church. Fr. Proulx said it was a good idea but the logistics of this makes it impossible. It was also asked why the Eucharist host is so much smaller in size. Fr. Proulx said that by purchasing a smaller size host, it has cut the cost in half. The suggestion box has been placed in the church library.

It was suggested that we recognize volunteers who helped with Fr. Cippel's reception.

Fr. Proulx closed the meeting with a prayer.

Attendance Virginia Baum, Janet Caraballo, Dee LoPresti, Linda McCarroll, Sue Mokris, Gary Rabenold, Kirven Speed, Art Barlaan, Jo O'Brien, Denise Rolita, Irma Reyes

Excused absences: Jim Ussery, Arturo Rivera