

Pastoral Council Minutes October 11, 2011 - 7:00PM

In attendance: Fr. Jeff Meeuwsen, Deacon Arturo Romero, John Krebsbach, Ema Ramos, Helen Goff, Felipe Sayago (late arrival), Lani Vandehey, Michelle Tunnell (Admin. Ass't/Recorder), Rafael Manriquez (non-voting)

Absent: Tweena (pre-arranged), Becky Pettit, Jorge Monzón

Admin. Council Representative: Lori Pearson

Attachments: E-mailed feedback from Becky Pettit (not present) about funeral notifications and parking lot striping

Meeting called to order at: 7:01pm

1. Opening Reading and Reflection – Fr. Jeff **Matthew 22:15-21**

•Words or phrases that stood out to us & reflections:

--“*We know that you are a truthful man...*”—So often we search out lots of things, but the truth is in *Jesus* and in the *Scriptures*.

--“*Repay to God what belongs to God.*”—We wouldn’t work without God providing that for us, so we should rightly give back to Him. Her dad often reminded her that when they were growing up.

--“*Why are you testing me?*” We’re all being tested by our example: “Preach the Gospel and use words when necessary.”

--The Pharisees were out to trick and test Him. We must always be on guard for the test or example to set to the world.

--Nobody is going to *know* you’re taking the test. One example is doing your taxes ethically. Ask yourself what God or the Church would want even if it’s “legal” (i.e. a loophole). Put in an honest day’s work for an honest day’s wage.

--He’s often surprised by Jesus’ answers. If we give more to God, God gives more to us. You can never out-give God.

--Be honest with your employers and your family and about life.

--“*Knowing their malice...*” How helpful that would be if *we* could know this.

--“*Why are you really asking that question?*” They really want to ask a different question and get a different answer. They may not be sure what they’re looking for—they’re not always *necessarily* deceitful. They think they know what they’re looking for, but they’re really looking for *God*.

--They’re trying to rule Him out. They’re trying to look for God with their own justification. We want to hear what we want the answer to be. We’re shocked when it’s *not* that answer and then go ask somebody else instead.

2. Approval of September (not “August” per the agenda) minutes - John
Felipe arrived later, so at that time we had no quorum to approve the minutes. Approval will be tabled till next month.

3. Admin Council Report – Lori Pearson
 - The financial report was looking good. Our insurance was \$4,565 less than anticipated (partly due to the Safety Grants).
 - They discussed parking lot improvements. The Safety Grant will be given again next year. We’d like to apply and do greater repairs (although we’ll stripe this week, weather-permitting) in the spring with all of the paving-related projects combined. The striping alone should lower our insurance bill when they next assess.
[Update: The striping was postponed to the 18th due to rain.]

 - They worked on the Employee Health Tax Credit. We’re anticipating approximately \$4,700 back.
 - Virginia O. reported that the “pass-thru” energy credits have *not* been sold.
 - We were down a little at the Rummage Sale: budgeted \$4,700 in income; brought in \$4,117 and budgeted \$550 in expenses with \$395 actual—off a little over \$100.
 - We had the Mexican Dinner; the financial reports weren’t in at the time of the meeting.
 - The raffle brought in \$5,140, with \$1,557 in expenses, so we netted close to \$4K. We had talked about doing a raffle a couple of times a year but would need to keep it small for reporting purposes. We can do up to \$10K in a calendar year. (Lori found that out since the meeting.) We therefore may not be able to do another till raffle till 2012.
 - They talked about spreading out fund-raising events so that they’re not so heavily calendared for the fall months.
 - Alex reported we were on track for the Auction. The Council made their decision about their Silent Auction donation. You’ll have to come to find out what it is!
 - The Maintenance Committee reported and then had their work party the following week.
 - They talked about the Paddle Bid recommendations to Fr. Jeff. Audio system improvements were the general consensus.
 - The Wolf oven was repaired for around \$500. The problem was a piece that had been improperly fitted.
 - Fr. Jeff reported his new assignment as Administrator at St. Edward’s.
 - Virginia suggested finding a better solution/positioning for the dumpster or how to make that entrance area to the church and offices more attractive. They were going to think about options for next meeting.

4. Auction Dinner
 - a. Statue purchased by Becky for the Parish Council item
Becky found a statue. John saw a picture on Becky’s phone. Helen saw the actual statue. Becky got a really good deal, which would calculate out to about \$10/person. We could reimburse her next Council meeting (which will be after the Auction) so that John or somebody else isn’t holding onto the funds.

- b. Any loose ends related to Auction Dinner? –No others.

5. Parish Notification of deaths and funerals

- a. We have had a number of long-term parishioners who have been on the prayer chain die, and then there is a funeral. Parishioners are complaining that they don't get the information until too late. Is there a solution?

Discussion:

•Our ability to publish in the bulletin and/or for the local papers to report depends upon the time of death & date of funeral relative to press deadlines.

•Becky sent an e-mail asking if we could post funeral notices on our Web site with a link to the respective funeral home. Becky tries to communicate this information via e-mail but does not know all who are struggling with life-threatening health issues or all who would want to be informed. There is no intent to exclude anybody.

•Fr. Jeff announces parishioner illness or upcoming funerals at weekend Mass when requested. Some people don't want announcements and may feel the publicity is an intrusion on their privacy. Funerals, however, are public events in the Catholic Church. We post them on our calendar/Web site. Michelle updates the on-line calendar right away as soon as Fr. Jeff arranges the date/time with the mortuary. People should check our Web site regularly. Those of our Community who are sick have to ask that their names be included for public prayer/Mass intentions.

•The funeral homes have postings on their Web sites. We announce at morning Masses and rely on word-of-mouth from there. *What about non tech-savvy people?* We could ask the families if it's okay to alert the prayer chains—although the Prayer Chain is still a small group. We're hesitant to send Parish-wide e-mails very frequently so that people don't think they're junk mail and stop reading them. Fr. Jeff hesitates to give more (phone call) work to Staff as well.

6. Lani has been asked if we could increase the number of handicapped parking places and put two on the Parish Center/ south side of the church for easier access.

Discussion:

•She's referring to the first angled ones across from the rail and across from the garbage cans (the southwest side of the church). Even when people come early, there are so many places full that they have to walk a long way. Becky asked for us to consider honoring "courtesy stickers" in her e-mail.

- We could ask parishioners to park in the lot across the street and save the other spaces on Sunday mornings for guests and the handicapped.

- Would that change our striping bid? Will it be too late for this Thursday's projected work? Would we have to wait till we re-pave? We have to order the decals ahead of time. It would be tough to administer and "police" courtesy stickers.*

- Per Fr. Jeff, adding 2 spaces is a good idea *after* we re-pave and thus need to re-stripe. It's not enough lead-time for Thursday.

- Action Item:** In the meantime, we can continue to try to ask people to use the other lot and leave the small one for those with difficulty walking.

7. Update on Fr. Jeff's role as pastor here and administrator of St. Edward's –Fr. Jeff

- The St. Edwards folks have been very generous and flexible. This was his first main day there; last week he checked in by phone. He's waiting for an office space once Bishop Steiner moves out.

- He's meeting folks and checking out maintenance concerns. He'll meet with the Finance Council Thursday (they meet quarterly; it's a smaller parish) and the Pastoral Council (may meet more regularly) next Thursday. He'll set up his office on Friday. He'll work there Tuesday mornings (9-10am to 1:30pm and be here around 2:00pm) and some block of time on Fridays. He'll work out a more solid calendar with Michelle. He'll do marriages and funerals there also.

- He's getting re-oriented to how to pastor that particular parish like he had to do here. He hasn't been practicing as much Spanish lately, though. He knows a lot of the families due to the proximity to Roy, and some are related to him. Some of our parishioners were upset about the added assignment, but he has to answer to the Bishop and be obedient.

- He was told this would last only 9 months and that by July 1, 2012 they'd have a pastor at St. Edward's. We can help him out by being forgiving when he is unable to meet when asked or when he forgets something.

8. JustFaith report- John Krebsbach

They're on their 6th week tomorrow. They had their Fri-Sat opening retreat. The materials and interaction are pretty intense and well thought-out. Several things are happening with this group. One member prays for everybody in the group daily. Nobody is there by coincidence but by Divine appointment. The quotes he got from this group are far better than the brochure quotes, although he can't use them due to confidentiality. Rafael M. can feel the unity of the group while sitting in his office 2 rooms away! They're touching other people. A rep. from Adelante Mujeres recently met with them. Adelante isn't a Catholic organization per se but has a lot in common with our Social Justice calling. That Adelante rep. will check out Adelante's brochures that had references for pregnancy in crisis including abortion and will report back at next

meeting. They prayed for her, and she was very touched. They share deep things that might not even share with spouses. John keeps lifting it up in prayer for the Spirit to guide them. Their latest book is “*Tattoos on the Heart*” by Fr. Boyle who works among gangs (and even gets death threats!) and has rival gangs working together.

9. Good of the Order: Sample Directories. We owe such a debt of gratitude to Diana W. for researching the services, organizing the entries and photos, and getting bids for color hard copies. We can offer them for \$12, which will also pay the \$60 yearly on-line hosting fee. We already have 23 requests (to-date) and about 20 preliminary copies currently.

Fr. Bill was even impressed when he saw the directory! We got more participation this time due to no photographer pressure. One of our parishioners passed away shortly after the photo, and Lani printed and framed a PDF of their portrait for his surviving spouse. The family was very touched and wanted more copies.

10. Closing prayer/Night Prayer – Fr. Jeff

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at: 8:17pm

Admin Council Attendance 2009-11 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

July 20, 2010	Tweena
NEW DATE: August 3, 2010	None
September 21, 2010	Todd
October 19, 2010	Felipe
November 16, 2010	John
December 21, 2010	Rafael A—Rafael M went in his place.
January 18, 2011	Helen
February 15, 2011	Rafael M—Rafael Anaya due to 12/21.
March 15, 2011	Tweena
April 19, 2011	Todd
May 17, 2011	Felipe
June 21, 2011	John

Pastoral Council Members & Terms of Service

Date Began Service	Council Member Name	Term Expires
7/2006	Tweena Casey tweena@gmail.com 503-329-2237 Chair	'12
5/2009	Felipe Sayago felipe.sayago@yahoo.com ; 503-357-7699	'12
[7/2010	Rafael Anaya anaya91377@hotmail.com 503-330-2266 (Now back from Mexico; TBD when will officially be back on the Council.)	'13]
7/2010	Helen Goff pelicanwatcher@hotmail.com 503-359-5058	'13
7/2010	John Krebsbach dr.john@groveweb.net 503-357-5390 Vice-Chair.	'13
7/2011	Becky Pettit: bec_pettit@hotmail.com (503) 516-2170 (c)	'14
7/2011	Ema Ramos: emmarcardenas@yahoo.com (971) 255-3313	'14
7/2011	Jorge Monzón jorge.monzon1@yahoo.com (971) 322-4396 (Martha); interim to fill in for Rafael A.	'14