

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
November 2nd, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Terry Callahan

Members Present: Fr. Brendan, Terry Callahan, Daniel Eckl, Karen Ekizian, Lesley Grant, Carol Lavigne, Marc Mastromonico, Maria Mendoza, Shawn Patrick, Bob Smart, Patrick Stoll, Milton Tobar, and Gary Tucker.

Member Absent: Estrella Villafranca-Ruiz

Faith Sharing: Patrick

Administration: October minutes were approved

Stewardship Conference: Terry Callahan shared with us her experience from the stewardship conference. The consensus was it was very valuable and those that attended will have a side meeting to summarize and put forward the key points and initiatives that might stem from that. Terry is checking on the availability of recordings and more information will come after all attendees compare their notes.

Pastor's Comments: Fr. Brendan provided the following summary:

- \$11,000 was given to FAM to help support the local community of Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente. The parish has also provided over 20,000 lbs. of food over the 10 months we've been involved with them. This is quite a feat. It's something we should be proud and happy about.
- The adoptive family tree will be out for advent.
- An Advent crown with a place for a candle in the center, will also be distributed during Advent. Its purpose is to provide a focal point for families to center around during Advent allowing for prayer and reflection on acts of service.
- Father Dave's sister died last week and her funeral mass will be held in Cypress at Saint Irenaeus.
- We also learned that Fr. Freddie has been diagnosed with brain tumors and is really in need of our prayers.
- The choir is getting ready for their trip to Rome.
- The "state of the parish" gathering has been scheduled for March 11th at Knight Hall with a goal of encouraging and enhancing communication in the parish.

Foundation Document: There was discussion about proposed revisions to the foundation document. The council voted to make the following revision:

Section 10, paragraph 2 of the Saint Edward the Confessor Pastoral Council Foundation document. Shall be amended to read as follows:

“As needed, the Pastoral Council will help to organize and lead a Parish Gathering at the discretion of the pastor. After each gathering, the council assimilates the gathering results.”

Annual Mass Head Count and Family Information Update:

- The head counts during mass were completed in the month of October as they've been for previous years.
 - The counts are showing an 11% to 12% drop in attendance versus the same period last year.
 - This reinforces the perceived need for a complete parish family information update or survey to find out how many families we actually serve, how we can best serve them, and what their needs are.
- Ideas for how to update parish family information were discussed at last month's stewardship conference as well.
- Fr. Brendan mentioned that apparently no one is aware of any parish having conducted such an update in the Diocese.
- A sample family information update form was passed around during the meeting. It asked for basic information with the ages of various family members, and the consensus was, that it was probably asking for just about the right amount of information for phase one.
- Ideas were discussed for how to reach everyone using multiple methods and technologies.
- Using a phased approach seemed to make the most sense, meaning the update for the records should be simple and basic for the first pass.
- We also talked about the possibility of providing an incentive gift for those updating their records.
- The request form should also provide a concise and compelling reason as to why parishioners should provide information.
- Terry Callahan took an action item to start working on the layout of the phase one card.

PSA Certificate of Achievement Award: Our parish was awarded a certificate of achievement for meeting and exceeding the PSA goal. This was both in total dollars raised as well as the growth in the percentage of contributing families independent of dollar amounts.

Boots on the Ground:

- Concern was brought up by a parishioner regarding when it is proper for the congregation to sit after communion. This brought up a broader discussion about different Catholic traditions and what is right and what is proper versus what we have learned over time. It highlighted an opportunity for communication and education. What makes our new church design different is that we have a tabernacle that is considered a separate room and as such, the protocols are different than if the tabernacle was part of the church.
- Finally we discussed some complaints by parishioners that the tempo of the music was too slow and the music selection not being on par with what it was in past years. While the general consensus was that our music is very, very good, it was also acknowledged that it probably isn't at

the level that it was 10 years ago. This issue has come up as a concern before, and was discussed with no direct resolution aside from Fr. Brendan agreeing to have a conversation with Rick Dellafield.

Greeting Exercise: We shared various experiences from our day of greeting people out in front of church before mass. Overall it was very positive. The fact that we were out there making eye contact and sparking conversation was a very positive experience. We encouraged each other to continue to greet parishioners outside of church whenever possible as a good faith gesture, and also to allow more of the parishioners to get to know us personally.

Faith Formation: It was shared that the Saint Edward SURF Group (Serving Under our Righteous Father), has a new van that was donated to them, and they nicknamed it the "Bishop Van."

Closing prayer provided by Patrick

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patrick Stoll.