

## Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes December 1, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dave Wetzel

**Members present:** Fr. Brendan Manson, Terry Callahan, Christa Crafts, Milton Tobar, Estrella Villafranca-Ruiz, Lesley Grant, Emily Thomas, Carol Lavigne, Bob Smart, Gary Tucker, Marc Mastromonico, Maria Mendoza, and Dave Wetzel.

**Members absent:** Rosa Ceja

**Faith Sharing:** Christa shared a reading from The New Seeds of Contemplation by Thomas Merton.

**Minutes approved from the 11/03/15 Meeting.**

### January 5, 2016 Meeting

Fr. Brendan will be in India during the next meeting. The council discussed if we should still meet. A decision will be made closer to the date.

### Recap of Diocese Listening Session

Terry, Marc, Carol, Gary, Lesley, and Dave attended the first Listening Session with other parishes throughout the diocese. The diocese asked participants to address two questions:

- “What are we doing well?”
- “What do we need to work on?”

Council Comments/Feedback:

- Enjoyed hearing other people’s perspectives from different parish communities.
- St. Killian’s appeared to be a similar parish to St. Edwards.
- St. Edward’s has great programs and ministries.
- We should assist other parishes in learning how to tap into resources to share with their parish communities.
- Discussions were inwardly focused rather than community focused.
- Participants were very complimentary of Bishop Vann.

Two other sessions will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>. Feedback from all three sessions will be combined into one document and shared with all participating parishes.

### Pastor’s Comments

- **Uganda Trip**  
Father Brendan and Deacon Al recently returned from visiting Father Achilles in Uganda. They toured the church, medical clinic, school, and other facilities supported or built by donations from St. Edward parishioners. Highlights included a mass celebration with school children, breakfast with the Archbishop, and the hospitality of the Missionaries of the Poor. The needs of the community are plentiful but strategic planning on future giving opportunities is needed to ensure we maximize funds to meet the core and urgent needs. Overall, it was a wonderful trip.

- **Outreach Goals and Strategic Planning**

As a parish, our goal is to be intentional in our community giving. We should focus on increasing the hours and financial support in order to better serve the poor in our neighborhood. A first step is our relationship with FAM. In the upcoming months, we will establish a satellite office for FAM at San Felipe. Caseworkers can train volunteers from our parish, therefore increasing the amount of hours available to serve those in need.

- **Parish Outreach Committee**

Fr. Brendan and Bob reviewed a few of the goals of this new committee:

- 1) To ensure fairness in dispersion of gifts.
- 2) To create a consultative body for program review
- 3) To establish a framework with predetermined objectives

The four-year list of giving history was created to determine where funds have been designated. 95% of donations were given to 10 causes, with approximately 30% going to the diocese.

This committee will enable us to focus and execute our giving goals as a parish.

- **Homeless Jesus Statue**

Lights have been installed. The artwork is well received overall, despite a few neighbor complaints.

- **Jesus Statue at Church Entrance**

Although all original inspection issues were completed, the final inspection revealed an issue with one side of the robe. Plants will now be placed around the bottom of the statue to pass city inspection.

- **Tabernacle**

The new tabernacle is in the church and the council commented on the positive feedback received.

- **Review of Stewardship Funds and Annual Appeal.**

This presentation started conversations within the parish on how individuals and families should financially support our parish. The concept of tithing is often a new concept to many people. Council reviewed feedback received. It was agreed Fr. Brendan did a great job explaining the spiritual need to tithe. Milton's presentation was also applauded. Spanish speaking parishioners many need help with parish pay registration.

- **Parish School Fund**

Dr. Muzzy will be making a presentation at mass this weekend regarding the school fund. She will present information about the foundation and ask for donations.

- **Advent**

One of our parishioners created the second annual 25 Days of Advent book. It is a bilingual publication this year. We are blessed to have this resource for our parish community.

- **Thanksgiving Mass**

Once again, the Thanksgiving mass was beautiful and well attended. This year the music ministry was united as a bilingual choir instead of switching between two separate music groups. We truly looked like a “family.” A few more people joined the adult choir after their experience. Our united choir will be continued in future bilingual masses.

- **PSA 2016**

The annual PSA appeal will start the weekend of January 31. Presentation ideas were discussed by the council and Fr. Brendan.

- **Upcoming Parish Events**

- 12/4/15 – Special mass for those affected by Alzheimer’s and dementia.
- 12/5/15 - Blessing of the children’s choir singing in Rome after Christmas
- 12/12/15 – Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration and Mass

### **Round Table**

- Fall Confirmation retreat was amazing.
- A parishioner inquired about church sponsored transportation to mass for the elderly. Due to insurance reasons, this is not a ministry we can offer. However, individual parishioners can volunteer to drive anyone who may need a ride.

### **Closing prayer provided by Christa Crafts**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christa Crafts.