

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 13, 2018

Members in attendance: Father Tom Verber, Avelina Villares, Alicia Chauvel, Juan Calderon, Punky Soares, Barbara Vize, Mary Guinn and Paloma Pallan-Bricero.

Guests: Tom Susanka and Dan Reid from Finance Committee.

- Opening prayer and mission statement.
- The meeting began with a review and approval of the May 2018 meeting minutes.
- Welcome to Rosemary (Paloma) Pallan-Bricero, third, new 2018 council member joining the council.
- The first order of business was to welcome Dan Reid and Tom Susanka to speak on an archdiocesan proposal entitled “The Legacy Fund”. This plan addresses the importance of advance directives, wills, trusts, etc. when estate planning. The archdiocese will work with specific attorneys regarding the spread of information to the parish regarding including the parish in one’s advance directives, will, trust, etc.
- Dan and Tom both spoke at length regarding the benefits of the proposal, and would be willing to speak to parishioners and answer questions.
- Dan suggested he would come to a meeting and speak about the finances with the Pastoral Council.
- Cel Hickok suggested speaking with Paula Clarke as head of Bereavement Ministry and funeral planning.
- Tom then recommended a “Legacy Society” as a way of recognition of those who adopted the plan.

- Some suggestions were made regarding a free 1-hour consultation, three different presentations of the subject both in English and Spanish. The basic premise is the planning not the bequests.
- The campaign is to begin in June with meetings in February.
- All council members agree to implement the program.
- Monday, November 5, is the next planning meeting.
- Father Tom reviewed St. Thomas Aquinas Centennial Celebration plans.
- There will be a meeting and Mass on February 23, 2019. A question of Archbishop Gomez saying Mass was addressed. There will be a banner in town across Ojai Ave.
- Mary Guinn relayed that on July 27, there was a meeting about Mass at the museum, (which was the original church) at 10 am. The vestibule display was coordinated by Mary Baker with Marty Reid handling the display at the museum.
- Parts of the discussion were lent to ideas of coordinating with the museum, naming our centennial, “100-year” Jubilee, contacting local reporter Perry van Houten for press coverage.
- Paloma suggested bringing the issue before the Hispanic Community and was agreed upon.
- Suggestions pending were for the parish fund of \$50,000 for repairs, some included raffles to raise money. The issue was followed up at Chuck Montag’s home on September 17, 2018.
- The next meeting is on Monday, November 5, 2018. Avelina, Juan and Barbara will provide refreshments.
- The meeting was then adjourned with a prayer.