

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 4, 2019

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

Members absent: Avelina Villares, Barbara Vize, Salvador Soria, Cel Hickok, and Father Fernando Lopez

Guests: Dan Reid from Finance Committee.

- Opening prayer and mission statement.
- Reviewed and Approved the November 5, 2018, Pastoral Council minutes. One correction is required regarding the direction to use the suggestion box to recommend changes to the Spanish homily. Approved minutes will be posted to the church website.
- Collected an update on the Centennial Celebration:
 - 300 attendees expected for the luncheon; almost sold out
 - Beautiful painting by Karen Lewis donated for the luncheon raffle; tickets are 10 dollars each
 - A town meeting is scheduled for February 17
 - The local paper provided a news article early last week
 - Villanova Prep Art Class has created a banner in honor of the event; Father Tom is offering a \$250 scholarship donation to the student who provided the artwork
 - The refurbished cross in the vestibule is on display
 - Ready for the event on Saturday, February 23, with Archbishop Jose Gomez and Bishop Robert Barron
- Alicia to follow up with Carlos Herrera regarding the workday events.
 - Held one out of three planned for the Centennial celebration preparation. There was a need for more participation

- Received some support on the first event; however, expected more parishioners to volunteer their time
 - Also, needed our council to champion more communication at the English mass; Alicia to follow up and collect ideas
- Dan provided an update on the Wills and Trust Seminars planned for February 13 and 20:
 - 45 registrants – room for more as there are four sessions
 - Planning to offer testimonials at Mass the weekend of February 9 and 10
 - Sign-up tables to register available three weekends leading up to event
- Spring Festival is scheduled for the first weekend in May. Marty Reid will kick off planning meetings after the Centennial Celebration
- Dan provided an update on the Finance Committee highlights:
 - Building Fund account has experienced an increase in monthly donations – an average of 2-3,000 dollars last summer to 5-6,000 dollars per month currently
 - Continuing to build that fund while we finalize maintenance items due to the preparation and cleanup of the Centennial Celebration
 - Other maintenance items referenced were the beetle infestations in our trees and the bathroom ceilings experiencing leaking damage due to the rain
- Bishop Barron recently spoke at a youth conference with over a 1000 in attendance. It was a wonderful experience and made Father Tom consider our evangelistic efforts
- Father Tom recommended we think about how to bring more people to Christ which is part of our council’s mission statement
 - Could be spearheaded by the council – a parish program to reach out to fallen Catholics and those who don’t know Christ
 - Offer material “how to evangelize”

- The church is seriously thinking of expanding the “Alpha for Adolescents” evangelization effort Brian uses with our youth group
 - The question is how to reach those who are not in the pews.
 - This program includes a large group setting, with video, dinner and hospitality. Then it breaks into small groups for discussion. The whole idea is to offer a friendly environment, which is conducive to trust in the small group discussion
 - The end game is transformation of participants who come to know Jesus personally and decide to follow only Him
 - Please send your thoughts to Father Tom or offer a suggestion in the mailbox
- Three of our councilmembers are at the end of their three-year term; rotation occurs at the May 2019 meeting
 - Salvador Soria, Punky Sores and Alicia Chauvel will exit
 - The Council needs to recommend new members; should consider more youth and males in this next council term
 - Father Tom is nominating a youth candidate, two additional candidates are recommended by the council
 - During March, a note in the bulletin will request parishioner nominations for council or someone can nominate themselves; nomination forms will be in the Vestibule
 - Father Tom and Alicia will pull together all submissions by end of March and call on the council to make a nomination early April
 - It is expected that our councilmembers will assist in interviewing these candidates
- New chairman, vice chairman and secretary roles will be selected by the new council at the next meeting
- The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 2019 with nominated new members in attendance.
- Pictures of the new 2019-2020 council and individual pictures of the new members will be taken at the beginning of the meeting.
- The meeting was then adjourned with a prayer.