

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 14, 2018

Members in attendance: Avelina Villares, Dick Sebek, Michael Shields, Father Fernando Lopez, Father Tom Verber, Carlos Herrera, Juan Calderon, Punky Soares, Salvador Soria, Barbara Vize, Cel Hickok, Mary Guinn and Alicia Chauvel

Members absent: Paloma Pallan-Bricero

- Started the meeting with an opening prayer and the council mission statement.
- Welcomed the new councilmembers joining for the next three years (2018-2021), Cel Hickok, Mary Guinn and Rosemary (Paloma) Pallan-Bricero.
- Reviewed and accepted the February 5, 2018, meeting minutes.
 - The approved February meeting minutes – English and Spanish versions will be posted online.
- Received a couple donations since our last council meeting.
 - Carlos Herrera has continued to offer his services by having the carpets cleaned throughout the church and the hall. Thank you Carlos Herrera.
 - Art Garcia and his son have donated their time and expertise to take photos of the new councilmembers and the new council group. These photos will replace the current councilmember photos in the vestibule.
- Provided updates from the February minutes:
 - Received positive reaction to February's celebration of parishioners' anniversaries (greater than 30 years). It was recommended to continue a special wedding anniversary blessing quarterly.
 - Continuing the plans to initiate an online church roster, Alicia will engage Deacon Phil to set up the church website to create user accounts for our parishioners who want to provide a picture and contact details online.
- Father Tom provided the Church updates:
 - Continuing to improve the plumbing in the Church and hall by replacing toilet parts and installing new pipes.
 - Continuing to manage through the swallows' nesting period; cleaning the mud from the front entrance lasts approximately 3-months.
 - Other repairs are required:
 - Men's bathroom ceiling is falling down
 - AC/Heating improvements; we have a bid in place
 - Collected an Electrician assessment for improved lighting; currently \$1800 monthly expense for the church

- St. Thomas was selected for the first wave to participate in the Archdiocese capital campaign program; begins January 2019. Father Tom requested a later start date given the financial burden from the Ventura County fires and support being offered to the community.
- Continuing positive momentum with the Finance Committee; able to produce a P&L statement and Balance sheet for the church.
- The Parish Festival just ended and it is too early to provide the financial benefit. The councilmembers provided their feedback on the event:
 - BBQ seemed less attended
 - Saturday attendance was light compared to past years
 - Sunday Hispanic attendance was high and consistent with past years
 - Same volunteers are offering their service each year; need new volunteers to support these funding raising activities
 - Rummage sale expected to have average proceeds
- A recommendation was made to use battery candles or paper sleeves for future candle vigils. The Lourdes pilgrimage caused candle wax drippings on the pews and carpets. The candles seemed to expend more wax than use of past candles.
- The Bereavement Committee will continue provide reception support for daytime funerals. This change supports the volunteers' availability.
- No suggestions received in the suggestion box this quarter. We should continue to remind parishioners in the bulletin to submit their suggestions in the box located in the vestibule.
- May is the transition period for outgoing members and induction of three new councilmembers. The following activities occurred:
 - The council thanked Dick Sebek, Michael Shields and Carlos Herrera for their service and 3-year commitment to being on the council.
 - Dick was Chairman for two of the three years.
 - Michael was Chairman for one year and Vice-Chairman for two years.
 - Carlos was Vice-Chairman for one year and offered his services to review Spanish written agendas, minutes and guidelines.
 - The nominations for new positions were proposed and accepted:
 - Alicia Chauvel will be Chairman
 - Avelina Villares will be Vice-Chairman
 - Barbara Vize and Paloma Pallan-Bricero (recommended) will be the co-Secretaries; Paloma agreed to translate the minutes
 - The Pastoral Council notebook and Suggestion Box keys were handed over to the Chairman; notebook includes all past agendas, minutes, rosters and the guidelines.
 - The council established a plan and date to make the new council announcement.
 - Recommended Sunday, June 19 as the date to present the members.
 - Chose the 9:30 am and 11:30 am Masses to introduce the members.
 - The corresponding bulletin needs to include the councilmembers and the purpose of the council.

- The quarterly council meetings were established:
 - Monday, August 13, 2018
 - Monday, November 5, 2018
 - Monday, February 4, 2018
 - Monday, May 13, 2018 (weekend after the Spring Festival)
- Held Closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.
- The next meeting is Monday, August 13, 2018.
 - Refreshments will be provided by Salvador, Punky and Alicia