

St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 6, 2017

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

Members absent: Juan Calderon

- Started the meeting with a reading of the mission statement.
- Reviewed and accepted the August 7, 2017 meeting minutes.
- Availability of the Pastoral Council materials is now available on the church website.
 - The May council meeting minutes – English version was posted in October; a Spanish version of the May minutes will be posted once translation is approved.
 - The Pastoral Council Guidelines will be posted to the site.
 - A list of Pastoral councilmembers and the mission statement is currently available on the site.
 - As a reminder, once the minutes are approved in the following meeting, a Spanish translation program will be used to translate a Spanish version of the minutes. Both versions will be posted to the site.
- Church Updates:
 - Parish maintenance update – Father Tom confirmed a bid for \$40K was received to replace the A/C equipment. The Finance committee will review and handle communications to the parish.
 - Liturgy Committee leader is Deacon Phil.
 - There are plans to continue publishing “the history of the parish” in the weekly bulletin.
 - Online Giving program has limited participations with 13 parishioners enrolled – need to encourage more parish support to continue this program.
 - The Archdiocese has a new capital campaign superseding other programs; 3-year period to engage and half the proceeds collected are used for this parish. Father Tom will attend a meeting at the end of November to learn more about the program.
 - There are advantages to joining early; we will establish the funds for maintenance expenses that are required now (e.g. hall improvements, A/C replacement).

- Father Fernando Lopez announced that Our Lady Maria of Guadalupe pilgrimage was successful and well attended. The Ventura Star had an article describing the event.
- All Soul's Day Mass collected \$1200.00; collection was not originally planned (lesson learned)
- Christmas theme this year is "Coming home". Father Tom asked each parishioner to encourage someone to come to Mass this holiday.
- Time to order new Missalettes - Father Tom discussed the need to monitor those who remove our Missalettes from the church; please encourage those parishioners to purchase a Missalette from the office.
 - Barbara will speak with Kathleen to put a reminder in the bulletin and make an announcement after Mass "The books are available for purchase should anyone wish to have a copy at home."
 - A request was made to purchase the Readings only; speak with Kathleen for those details and the cost.
- Other topics as by the council members:
 - Greeting parishioners at the door before Mass offers another opportunity to welcome visitors to our church.
 - There is a desire to list anniversary announcements in the weekly bulletin.
 - Have we considered offering a small religious store on campus; Father Tom explained that we have free rosaries available at the front office; however, there is no appetite to carry inventory or resource a store.
 - Food donations should be delivered during office hours. Call and leave a message for hours.
- Held Closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.
- The next meeting is Monday, February 5, 2018.
 - The following councilmembers are signed up for refreshments: Avelina, Juan and Punky.