

St. Mark Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes † October 13, 2009

In Attendance: Eileen Gallagher, Arthur Packard, Lisa Strickland, Lizzie Espendez, KC Shinnars, Chuck Chrimes, Msgr. Richard Bellow, Fr. Brad Jones, Deacon Louis Pais, and Deacon Ron Sherwood, Tom Rider, Ralph Wearsh

Excused: Dennis Coleman, Kim Antolini, Nancy Thibodeau, Deacon Robert Murphy, Theresa Rouse

Guests: Debbie Hains, Rosemary Keeley, Mike Carlet

Eileen Gallagher welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Finance Committee Update: Mike Carlet provided the current status of parish finances was discussed. We are slightly ahead of plan for the year in collections. Some expenses are running a bit ahead of what we thought

Living Your Strengths Update

Rosemary discussed further the survey from Gallup and the expected results as to where and what we want to measure when we survey the parish for how we are helping them grow spiritually. We will be hosting a meeting with Don Garbison, St. Matthew Church, Co-Chair of Engagement Committee, LYS Coach, Gallup Faith Field Advisor Wed., October 28 (6:30 pm - 8:00 pm) in room 202. We will also be having a session called *Using Your Strength: Building Relationships* Monday, Nov. 16 (7:15 pm - 8:15 pm); Wed., Nov. 11, 2009 (1:00 - 2:00 pm). We will wait until we have a few years with Living Your Strengths before surveying the parish on a broader scale.

Minutes: The September 1, 2009 meeting minutes were approved.

Goal & Objectives Updates

Education

KC Shinnars and Tom Rider reported top priority will be to help Donna launch the Education Commission (Donna will this group initially at least, with members to include Deacon (full time, or as an adviser), hopefully a professional education - perhaps from St. Mark School, parents (grammar school, middle school, and high school), and Hispanic member. The size of the group would be about 6 (not counting Staff, who would be brought in as needed by Donna). Monsignor does not need to approve members, but Donna will. Any suggestions on members, please feed to our group (Nancy, KC, and Tom). Donna also needs help finding members and a leader for the Adult Education Committee, so the team will help there also. Once the Commission is founded, it will likely take 6 months for them to come up to speed on all the education activities at St. Mark, so our PC team will use that time to develop the strategic input to the commission from the PC (based on the input gathered last year & in the PC Retreat). As part of our work, we have asked if we could get a copy of the Parish Profile, Monsignor said he had it on CD, and to contact the office.

Communications Update - Still have been issues with all items getting into the bulletin in a timely fashion. Bulletin seems too full and new info is potentially being left out. We need to have a Communication Committee meeting to better understand the concerns. Suggestion that Heather Bellamore pull the meeting together and report to the Council by the December meeting.

Survey - Chuck and Lizzie reported it will be conducted the week of November 6 and 7 so that people can do it on-line or on paper and drop back no later than the next weekend.

Living Your Strengths - Debbie Hains - have LYS and GYS scheduled out into 2010, Outstanding Hospitality, Opportunities to Live and Grow Spiritually and Living your Strengths are the 3 key areas we will stress. Rosemary continues to need more volunteers for LYS.

Msgr. Bellow is working on having Mass on Wednesday night before Thanksgiving so that the priests and seminarian can be home for Thanksgiving.

Dennis and Chuck - have amended the Constitution. They will send to Eileen to send to the rest of the council for a vote to make it official.

Alex Sabo provided the Prayerful Reflection.

Alex suggested that a thank you note be sent to Sergio Miranda of the KofC for the carpet and the grass seed that was put on the parking lot island.

Alex also mentioned the KofC will be having a pot luck dinner for the priests in the spring and would ask that the Council assist. - will have a date by the end of the year. May be run by the Vicariates according to Msgr. Bellow.

Pastors Comments

Msgr Bellow said we are in the process of returning the former worship space back into a parish hall. Bathrooms are being upfit. Saturday evenings will be dedicated to parish time. Hopefully we will eventually be able to help the homeless by fixing meals and having beds for them - at some point in the future.

Still working on the logistics with the new church specifically with lights, sound and lights in individual rooms. Building cleaning remains problematic. Attendance is doing well. We are going to have a Parish album done prior to Mother's Day 2010.

The property will be mark with more visible signs for the traffic.

Deacon Ron closed the meeting with a prayer