

St. John Chrysostom Parish

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2017 – 7:00 PM – Stevenson Center

Present: Father Ed, Lynne Schofield, Carly Tolson, Kevin Haggerty, Chuck Zech, Mary Chollet, Debbie Traini, Marianne Duffy, Neil Sheehan, Gerry Arango, Deanna Benner, Pat Lockwood, Jared Shutt and Maureen Wortz

Opening Prayer – Mary led the group with a stewardship prayer

I. Introductions

- Each member provided an introduction, including a welcome to new members Pat Lockwood, Gerry Arango and Jared Shutt.
- Mary Pizzano, our new Director of Religious Education, also introduced herself and joined us for part of the meeting.

II. Father Ed Report

- Father asked Carly and Mary Pizzano to lead a discussion regarding the PREP program.
 - ✓ Carly congratulated Mary on a terrific start to a new year of PREP.
 - ✓ Some PREP parents have asked about the opportunity to have alternatives to Sunday morning classes to accommodate conflicts in student schedules. Several individuals discussed the pros and cons of alternative days.
 - ✓ The possibility of a summer PREP program was discussed.
 - ✓ Mary indicated she is looking forward to the year ahead and is working on a survey to send to PREP parents.
 - ✓ Father Ed said that our goal is to engage PREP parents and that he is very excited that parents are providing feedback. The fact that the representation at the Back to School night was approximately 20% of the total program parents provides an indication of the work ahead. He wants to engage both parents and catechists. The next step is the meeting of the PREP advisory board.
- Father next provided an update on the Parish Life Center.
 - ✓ The Parish Life Center Committee met the evening before Pastoral Council to follow up on the results of the Catholic Foundation's fundraising feasibility study. Father reported that the PLC Committee was continuing to evaluate the study results and to look carefully at all aspects of the project, including its scope, scale, timing, phases, funding mechanisms and strategies, and other fundraising issues.
 - ✓ Father requested feedback from PPC members on the study and the project. The group discussed the study methodology, the Catholic Foundation's presentation and capabilities, and various project options.
 - ✓ Father emphasized his commitment to the project, saying he hoped that the Parish Life Center would ignite and support parish life and ministry for the next 65 years. All indications are that we need a new facility to provide for the various ministries and activities to carry out the mandate of the Gospel, he said.
 - ✓ Father also indicated that the PLC Committee would make educational presentations to the Parish prior to fundraising and initiation of the project.

- Father called to attention the recent solicitation of parishioners outside of Mass. While he indicated everyone is free to respond as they wish, his preference is to direct the solicitors to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

III. **Finance Council Report**

- Maureen provided the Finance Council report. The annual financial report is at the printer and will be mailed in early November. The Parish enjoyed a \$149,000 surplus for our most recent fiscal year. The Block collection is higher by 24% vs. the same time period last year. Sunday collections are 4.4% higher than the prior year.
- A question was raised as to whether the outreach to the community in terms of financial contributions and activities could be included in future financial reports. Father responded that the financial contributions to the community are provided in the report and that consideration could be given to including the activities and outreach programs in the cover letter to the report in the future. It was suggested that a summary of the outreach could remind everyone of the broader activities that could take place if we were to have a separate Parish Life Center facility.

IV. **Ministries Update**

- Mary provided an update on our Parish ministries.
 - ✓ Mary indicated the overwhelming success of Welcome Sunday including attendance, sign-ups for ministries and the involvement of PREP.
 - ✓ Mary also pointed out some of the very successful recent activities including the blood drive which was over goal, the well-received recycling event to benefit incarceration resettlement, the new Mothers' group, the significant outside collections for school supplies for City Team and food for St. Katherine Drexel food pantry, the support of the Hope Café and the Youth Group's involvement in Good Works.
 - ✓ Online parish registration has been very well received and registrations have doubled since online registration began in May.
 - ✓ The Family Census update has been successful to date, especially in updating outdated parish records.

V. **New Business**

- Chuck solicited input regarding new business.
 - ✓ A reminder suggestion was provided to invite a high school student to provide input at a future PPC meeting.
 - ✓ A suggestion was made for us to revisit the list of 23 items summarized from Parish assemblies to determine if we need to revisit any specific items.
 - ✓ A suggestion was made that we should solicit input from parishioners regarding what we (the Parish) can do to help them better on their path to God, including ideas and suggestions as well as the need for any new ministries.

VI. **Closing Prayer** – Debbie led the group in a closing prayer.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14th at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Haggerty