

St. Columba Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

July 20, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Fr. Mel, Deacon Bill, Jeanette Allen, Ed Ancmon, Marlo Antonio, Tom Baxter, Fiona Bloemker, Curtis Carlson, Michael Conroy, Don Eklund, Terry Foster, George Gardner, Louise Holland, Peggy Keller, Theresa Kleinpeter, Kathi Lohry, Tracy Lunn, Tina Marvel, Joan McManus, Dee Myers, Deb Oberg, Shawn Quinn, Lavinia Reyes, Bill Schott, Stella Vasquez

Fr. Mel led the opening prayer.

The commissioning of the Ministry Council which was to take place at the 9:30 Mass last Sunday has been rescheduled to Sunday, Sep. 13th. The commissioning for Religious Ed teachers and school teachers is to take place at the 9:30 Mass on Sep. 20th.

A correction was requested to the June minutes regarding school finances. With that correction made, the minutes were approved.

Fr. Mel spoke about our parish Vision and Mission Statements. He stated that four aspects of the Mission Statement should become the basis of how our ministries and groups operate and we should bear them in mind all the time: meaningful worship, catechism, charitable actions, effective evangelization.

Fr. Mel reported that about 80 responses to our 5-Year Plan Questionnaire have been received. He said we will end the survey collection in August. In September, the results will be collated and the results will be presented at the Council meeting that month. Results will also be given to any ministries to which comments may apply. He plans to meet with each group or ministry over the coming months, which may be a year-long process. Once a 5-Year Plan is formulated, it will be presented to the parish.

ROUND TABLE

Tom Baxter – A pool party at the Ministry Center is being planned for the altar servers on August 8th. The Men's Faith group has volunteered to grill burgers and hot dogs for the kids.

Joan McManus – She related that there was a very large turn-out for Fr. O'Neill's funeral and the reception turned out very nice.

Mike Conroy – A flyer about R.C.I.A. was placed in the bulletin last Sunday. He said if anyone knows of someone who might be interested in the program to let him know. R.C.I.A. is also open to Catholics who want to review the basics of our faith, but they must commit to the whole program, not just one or two classes.

Shawn Quinn – There will be a healing Mass on Thursday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m., sponsored by the Prayer Group.

Ed Ancmon – He stated that the Knights of Columbus had a great year. He also suggested creating a survey with a numerical rating system.

Louise Holland – the Culture of Life ministry is working on gift baskets for pregnant mothers.

Theresa Kleinpeter – The Rosary Makers group will next meet on Thursday, August 6th at 2:00 p.m. in the Music Room. Everyone is welcome.

George Gardner – A donation of medical supplies was received for Matthew 25, which Fr. John Tasto will pick up this Thursday. George also mentioned that when we hold Adoration, the Blessed Sacrament cannot be left unattended in the chapel at any time.

Kathi Lohry – She shared that the room where the rice and bean donations for Matthew 25 are kept is over-full and also that it presents a pest control issue; Fr. John Tasto does not make frequent trips to pick them up, and when he does, he cannot transport it all in one trip across the border to Tijuana. She suggested that Matthew 25 be transitioned to a cash donation only basis. Fr. Mel responded that he knows from experience that it is not good to reject “in kind” donations, so rather, we should work on a better storage solution, which he referred to Bill Schott.

Dee Myers – Martha’s Ministry is a very small group which only meets about four times a year, and she suggested combining it with the Reception committee which sets up for wedding and funeral receptions. Previously, Martha’s Ministry would volunteer for Dinner with the Pastor in the rectory, but the dinners have been suspended for the moment; they will begin again at a future time.

Peggy Keller – The Stewardship Committee is planning a “Mass on the Grass” to be celebrated outdoors in front of the church on October 3rd at 4:30 p.m. There will be no 5:30 Mass or Confessions that Saturday. Spiritus choir will provide the music and the Men’s Club will host a BBQ social after Mass.

Tina Marvel – The PTG will meet next week on July 27th. The group is very involved with the planning for our Fall Festival and the Golf Tournament. If anyone wants to send a sympathy card to school secretary, Linda Glenwinkle, who recently lost her grandson in a motorcycle accident, they should be sent to her at the school.

Tracy Lunn – She has been named the Vice-Principal of our school. (This is a new position for the school). The new 7th grade teacher's name is Darren Houle, and the new 5th grade teacher will be Mary Harkay.

Marlo Antonio – She is coordinating the sale of raffle tickets for our Fall Festival and is optimistic that we can sell the necessary 5,000 tickets. She said word is getting out to Ascension parishioners and many of them are interested in a chance to win the car. Fr. Mel announced that Marlo will be filling the vacant position of church and school bookkeeper and will start in August. She will also take on duties as Admin. Assistant of Pastoral Concerns.

Don Eklund – He attended the Council meeting in place of Bob Horn, who represents the Finance Committee. He said they are reviewing sustainability and a master plan is being formed for our parish grounds and facilities. They are in the process of hiring an architect to assist.

Curtis Carlson – The Men’s Club will not meet in August; their next meeting will be Tuesday, September 1st.

Terry Foster – He stated that the Hospitality ministry is always looking for more people to volunteer.

Deb Oberg – The Cub Scouts attended a Padres game last weekend. They will continue their tradition of selling popcorn in coming months.

Deacon Bill – He informed the Council that he is part of the committee which is reviewing the 5-year–plan questionnaire results. Little by little, he is transitioning from his service from San Diego Mission de Alcala to St. Columba.

Fr. Mel said he got a request to discuss the topic of cigarette litter being left in the Marian courtyard after Bingo games. A page of photos was passed around showing the left-behind litter. Two ideas were proposed: to get more trash receptacles placed in the area and to ask the Bingo manager to continually announce to Bingo attendees to dispose of cigarettes properly.

Fr. Mel addressed the topic of name badges which he believes are an effective tool in community building and engaging parishioners. He would like all Hospitality ministers, musicians, altar servers as well as Ministry Council members to have a badge. Gary Keller is currently in charge of the name badge project.

Fr. Mel announced that we are going to have a Children’s Choir ministry. He has asked a lady at St. Michael’s, Kathleen Mawanay, to head this up, and she will set up a choir training program. This choir will eventually perform at the 5:30 Vigil Mass on Saturdays.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, August 17, 2015.

Submitted by Kathi Lohry