

**St. Columba Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**April 18, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**

Members present: Fr. Mel, Jeanette Allen, Marlo Antonio, Tom Baxter, Peggy Cahill, Michael Conroy, Alma Ditty, Terry Foster, Louise Holland, Bob Horn, Robin Keator, Kathi Lohry, Joan McManus, Rose Navarro, Dee Myers, Stella Vasquez

Fr. Mel led the opening prayer.

Approval of the February minutes was motioned and approved.

Mike Conroy -

There are already 2 candidates and 2 catechumins interested in our RCIA program starting in the fall.

Tom Baxter -

He had a good class of altar servers this year, starting out with 15 and 14 have remained. He is holding quarterly meetings; the first one was in January. He will have training classes for twelve Saturdays.

He is going to hold a scavenger hunt in the church for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Peggy Cahill -

Divine Mercy Sunday, on April 3 went well. About the same number of people attended as last year.

Robin –

The Confirmation retreat weekend is coming up on April 23. Confirmation is on Sunday, May 29 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass. This year, eleven Korean youth will also be confirmed.

First Communion is on May 7. Tess Nelson will be playing the music.

The Youth Group has about 45 kids, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Joan McManus –

The reception committee helped set up for Fr. Ed Corcoran's farewell reception on April 3. They will also set up for a funeral reception on Thursday, April 21. They will also assist with the welcome potluck for Fr. Mario on Saturday, April 30.

Jeanette Allen –

The Lay Apostles group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, and they are focusing on the theme of mercy, using teachings on reconciliation. At a meeting for the Lectors and Eucharistic ministers, they presented a prayer.

Alma Ditty –

Our last Name Tag Sunday went well. 388 name tags were given out. They will rethink doing Name Tag Sunday on special holy days.

The Palm Sunday procession seemed to be enjoyed by the parishioners. We will think about possibly using the Marion garden area in the future. Fr. Mel added that he would like to ritualize the procession.

Dee Myers –

Dee asked if the Martha's Ministry will be asked to prepare dinner for the Bishop on the Sunday that he comes for Confirmation on May 29. Fr. Mel will check with the Bishop's office to find out if the Bishop will come for dinner.

Louise Holland –

The Culture of Life ministry has been collecting baby items for seven months and has received about \$1,000 worth of diapers and clothes and a donation of \$500. Some members may go to pray at an abortion clinic at Miramar on May 7.

Curtis Carlson (via Terry Foster) –

The Palm Sunday brunch sponsored by the Men's Club went well. The Men's Club will also assist with the potluck reception for Fr. Mario, as well as the Holy Open Golf Tournament in June.

Bob Horn –

We have hired an architect to help with plans to improve our church campus.

We are looking at hiring a consulting company to help guide us in running a capital campaign.

Regarding sustainability, our plans to have Sullivan Solar install solar is still on track. The installation by Sullivan will be free and our bill should go down by 10%. Our roof is very old and may need to be replaced before the solar panel installation.

350 lights were installed in the school classrooms, which should cut down on our electric bill, which runs around \$1,600 a month. Our sacristans have been asked to keep the church lights off till the last minute and to set them on half power.

The Finance Committee meets tomorrow, April 17. Bob has requested that a financial report be put in the bulletin every month.

Peggy Keller (via Bob Horn) –

The Stewardship Committee gave out copies of the book Beautiful Mercy at Easter. We still have about 80 copies left over, which are available to anyone who did not get a copy.

In this Year of Mercy, we hope to put the Corporal Works of Mercy into action as a parish. Each ministry or group is being asked to come up with an idea; they can announce their plan in the bulletin. The school should also be included. The Men's Club may start a food drive next month. Fr. Mel added that each group should incorporate the theme of mercy into their activities. The idea is to get the parishioners engaged.

There is a movement to start up a Farmers Market in Serra Mesa for which startup funds are being requested from the community. Bob Horn has flyers about this effort.

Stella Vasquez –

She will coordinate a wedding on April 23. Deacon Bill has three convalidations coming up.

Rose Navarro –

The Gala event did not make as much money as we had hoped, only about \$11,000.

The National Catholic Educators Conference held at the Convention Center was a huge success. Some of our students contributed art work that was displayed at this event.

Earth Week is being celebrated this week. Two classes will clean up around the school every day. No plastic bags will be allowed this week.

Our students have also been invited to display their works at the Serra Mesa Library.

There will be an Honor Band concert on Saturday, April 23 here at St. Columba.

On Friday, May 13, the school will hold a May Crowning at the 8:15 Mass. Alma asked if the statue of Mary could remain up longer than one day.

The St. Columba Golf Tournament and BBQ will take place on Friday, June 10.

Mike Conroy -

He said that Kathie Goldkamp talked to him about the Penance services because the Blessed Sacrament Chapel does not offer enough privacy for personal confessions.

At the 9:30 Mass recently, a senior parishioner missed the step outside the Family Room and fell. Stella suggested adding a ramp.

Fr. Mel -

The committee planning the Golf Tournament will meet tomorrow. They plan to have someone speak at all the Masses in addition to placing announcements in the bulletin.

He has condensed the results of the Parish Questionnaires that were completed several months ago.

He encourages all ministries to come up with a brochure, similar to the one created by the Men's Club. We plan to have an area in the church vestibule for these brochures.

He plans to start meeting with each ministry group in May.

On Thursday, May 5, the Life in the Spirit Seminar will conclude with a healing Mass in the church at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Mel will take vacation from April 29 through May 4. He will be away at a New Pastors' Conference from May 9 to May 14.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2016.

*Submitted by Kathi Lohry*