

St. John Neumann Pastoral Council

May 13, 2015 @ 7:00pm

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of April Minutes

3. Updates & Continuing Business
 - 3.1 Marian Chapel Campaign (Mike)
 - 3.2 Archdiocese Pastoral Plan (Fr. Sunny)
 - 3.3 Family Formation & Outreach Ministries (Fr. Sunny)
 - 3.4 Parish Website (Fr. Sunny)
 - 3.5 Reviving Prison Ministry (Ann)

4. Commission & Council Reports
 - 4.1 Finance Council 3rd quarter report (Mike)
 - 4.2 Comisión Hispana Report (Adela & Luis)
 - 4.3 Liturgical Council (Pat Hodges)
 - 4.4 Stewardship Committee Report (Tom)
 - 4.5 Specific/Immediate Ministry Issues and Needs

5. Other Items of Concern or Interest to the Council
 - Children's RCIA program
 - Update of candidates for Pastoral Council position
 - Update on letter to the Archdiocese
 - Other items

6. Prayer & Adjournment

Council Members

PRESENT: Fr. Sunny, Donald Cote (Chair), Cathy Karlsen (Chair-Elect), Pat Hodges (Liturgical Council Rep), Tom Studer (Stewardship Council Rep), Mike Evans (Financial Council Rep), Ann Basile, Buihe Okenu, Adela Duran, Jeff Newman, Matt Champagne (Secretary)

ABSENT: Luis Cardenas, Deacon Mike Hayward

PROCEEDINGS

1. OPENING PRAYER

We recited the Stewardship Prayer together.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April minutes were approved.

3. UPDATES & CONTINUING BUSINESS

3.1 Update on Marian Chapel Campaign

Mike provided the following figures and details on the Campaign:

- Total Pledged is \$850K, with \$550K left to collect
- Unpledged collections are \$145K.
- Total accumulated cash both pledged and unpledged is \$445K.
- The Total pledged plus unpledged collections equal \$994K.
- The debt balance remains at \$300K.
- The total project cost including the remaining debt is estimated to be \$1.6M.
- Proposals presented by 3 contractors on April 27th. Van Winkle Construction Company was selected as the general contractor.
- Marian Chapel ground breaking to be held after all masses on May 16 &17.
- Construction to start sometime in June.

If we maintain our current rate of unpledged collections and collect all of our pledges, we should be able to pay off the entire debt of \$1.6M in 2 to 3 years. We are still negotiating to help lower the overall costs of the build. The time frame for completion of the chapel is December 2015.

Jeff and Adela were already thinking about perpetual adoration in the Chapel and whether possible to fulfill daily 24 hour participation. Father mentioned that St. Monica's made a valiant effort to do the same, yet could not fully fill all the hours. But we all agreed we might be successful!

There is one engraved brick paver in the gathering square (no one is sure why) and all pavers are currently in process and will be installed at the end of June. A second round of pavers is planned, to also include the 9 or 10 orders that didn't make the December 2014 deadline.

3.2 Archdiocese Pastoral Plan

The plan is now promulgated and in process of being implemented. Deacon Mike was selected by Fr. Sunny to coordinate the efforts with the Parish's school of religion and the Stewardship Committee, among others. The Parish is well ahead of other parishes in terms of Learn Your Faith, Live Your Faith, Share Your Faith.

3.3 Family Formation & Outreach Ministries

SJN has focused on family formation education for more than two years, which is also a key part of the Pastoral Plan. We just need to encourage more families to join in and keep growing. So many examples abound: Family Promise, Prison Ministry, Men of Faith Ministry (see: <http://www.paradisusdei.org/index.php/programs/tmiy>) – the Parish Council will continue to meet with these ministries (indeed, Council members are leaders in these ministries) and make plans for even more outreach. We have done so much.

3.4 Parish Website

After many discussions and consultations and thoughtful consideration, Fr. Sunny has decided that our Parish website will be updated and modified by the Catholic design organization **Solutio**. As communication director, Mary Lou already held the first meeting of interested parishioners to gather ideas and input on the new site. A second meeting is scheduled for May 20. Those who cannot attend are welcome to email their ideas to Mary Lou.

Once we provide our ideas and a framework to **Solutio**, they will complete the work and the train key personnel at SJN on how to update and maintain the site.

General discussion followed here, including Tom reminding us of the need to extend the work of the Stewardship committee by “selling” on the home page and Adela's comments about the wisdom of creating an app. Father said yes, that the new site will be available in English and Spanish.

3.5 Reviving Prison Ministry

Fr. Sunny recommended that Ann revive the Prison Ministry as its new leader and Ann accepted. She gave us a brief history of the ministry from its organization in Spring 2014 to the present. Ann took the first step by emailing all those who attended any of the Prison Ministries last year and is awaiting responses. Next is to spread the word through the church bulletin and through other ministries. There is a parishioner at St. Oliver who was enthusiastic about this ministry and who may bring others in as well.

We plan to begin the ministry with writing letters to the imprisoned. They are also in need of toiletries, although currently toiletries are being collected for our soldiers overseas and our guests in the Family Promise ministry.

Mary Moorman advised talking to Leo Payne to coordinate the Prison Ministry efforts with St. Vincent de Paul.

4. Commission & Council Reports

4.1 Finance Council 3rd quarter report

Mike provided the following figures and details from the Finance Council for the period January 1 to March 21, 2015:

- **Revenue vs. Expenses:**
 - YTD Offertory collections are 1.2% less than the previous year. Since other fees are higher this year the total revenue is only down by .29% compared to the previous year.
 - YTD Expenditures are .5% less than the previous year.
 - YTD Net revenue over expense is slightly better than last year.

- **2015 Archdiocese Annual Appeal**
 - Goal is \$109,700.
 - Total pledged is \$159,000.
 - Total paid to date is \$52,000.
 - Anything collected over our goal is returned to the parish.

There has been an ongoing trend of lower collections but no single reason for collections to be down. Our Parish regularly exceeds the Archdiocese goal for the Annual Appeal, but this year we are likely to have one of the largest overages in recent times.

4.2 Comisión Hispana Report

“On this Sixth Sunday of Easter, the Risen Lord breaks down another barrier between Him and us. Despite our sin, and maybe because of it, He now calls us friends. Having died on Good Friday for us, there now exists a special bond that perhaps only parents can understand. No matter what, good parents are there for their children. On this day when we honor our mothers, how blessed are we to have the Risen Lord Jesus as our friend. It has been said that a mother is the one who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take is our Lord’s in our heart.”

- The Lectors Ministry and members of the Youth Ministry are planning to continue studying their Lector's manual.
- CRSP Women had 32 new participants on the retreat. Very positive outcome, 20 of them return and hopefully the rest will eventually join.
- RCIA men are deep in bible study.
- RCIA finished their 2014-2015 session with 14 new members receiving the sacraments and joining our church! They will participate in a one day bilingual Retreat entitled "The Rites of RCIA" on July 11th in Smyrna.
- Altar Servers, joined by the youth group, will participate in a soccer tournament this summer. They also have planned some guest speakers at their meetings.

"The path of faith and hope the Blessed Virgin Mary provides to the world is something that is celebrated during May. This path brings the faithful to a great understanding of Christ."

4.3 Liturgical Council

The Liturgical Council has not met and won't meet again until August, but there is one issue to report. Parishioners can now donate Altar Flowers through the new sign-up book located in the Narthex. The cost is \$85 to sponsor a weekend. Pat heard a concern that more could donate if parishioners could share the cost of a weekend. Other parishes (e.g., Christ the King) hold a semi-annual collection and encourage e-giving for flowers. There is also a need to reconsider how the flower donations are paid. Currently checks are written to Freesia Floral Design but those donating may prefer their check be made payable to SJN. Any ideas and concerns about the Altar Flowers should be forwarded to Pat.

4.4 Stewardship Committee Report

The new Men of Faith ministry will begin the "That Man is You" program on September 11. The kickoff training will be this Friday at 5:45am (to get the fellows in shape to meet 5:45am for future meetings, of course). Jeff Newman heads this ministry that now has 15 leaders with goal of 100 men of the Parish. They plan to videotape both 13-week sessions.

Ideas generated at the Stewardship meeting included: (a) think about non-parishioners who may be shopping for churches online, (b) have a layperson give a talk once a month about the ministry, (c) create a list of one-and-done tasks (e.g., clean the grounds), (d) we focus too much on email and texts and do not mail enough cards or gifts and need to consider these when offering our thanks.

Other topics of the report were:

- Gus Lloyd is coming to our Parish on Saturday October 10! We welcome all to help as we need support from those with experience in promoting these types of events.
- The Stewardship fair to promote and encourage membership in committees is coming soon.

4.5 Specific/Immediate Ministry Issues and Needs

There were no immediate issues or needs from the ministry leaders.

5. Other Items of Concern or Interest to the Council

- The Children's RCIA program has moved into PSR. Historically the children received all three sacraments (Baptism, the Eucharist, and Confirmation) on Holy Saturday, but it will now include just Baptism and the Eucharist with the sacrament of Confirmation to be administered at age 15. Reconciliation will take place several weeks after Easter. The Council acknowledged Cathy's years of service with the children's RCIA program as she steps down.
- Update of candidates for Pastoral Council position – no one was aware of additional candidates submitting applications.
- Update on letter to the Archdiocese. The Council sent a letter to Superintendent Starkovich to express their concern with the declining enrollment at SJNRCS and to again pledge Father Sunny's personal support and the support of the Council for the school. The Superintendent replied with a memo that could be categorized as both offensive and defensive. The Council was disappointed at the non-responsive letter but felt that they did the right thing by reaching out to offer our help in whatever capacity possible.
- There are not enough handicapped spots close to the church. One solution is to convert other designated parking spots to handicapped only. Was noted that the Marian chapel construction will make the situation worse by eliminate the existing handicapped area on the west side of the church. The discussion turned to the general problem of parishioners parking in the emergency lanes.
- The Eucharistic Congress is June 5 and 6. The usual pre-Congress invitational DVD from the Archbishop will be shown at the May 30-31 Masses.

Special Note: This was the last meeting for Donald Cote and Mike Evans. Donald has served on the Pastoral Council for 3 years, most recently as Chair. Mike has served as Finance Council representative on the Pastoral Council for 2 years and served on the Finance Council for 4 years. We will miss their leadership, vision, and smiling faces at the monthly meetings!

6. Prayer & Adjournment

Father led us in a final prayer.

NEXT MEETING

There will be no meeting in June. The next meeting is July 15 at 7pm.

Ministry Reports - May 2015

Discipleship: Buihe

Adult Evening Bible Study (Ann Hayes): They finished a successful year of studying church history. They will start A Biblical Walk with Mary in September. It is an 8 week study.

No Reports from other Ministry Leaders

Support: Ann

Office Volunteers (Skip Holland): now have two more folks to help in the office but still continue to look for a few more.

Social Media (Nancy Fadeley): hit the bell ringer with Fr. Sunny's happy 21 year anniversary post last week. It was viewed by 1,863 people with 121 likes! Our best performing posts are the "Sunny Thoughts" posts. We were also 'viewed' a lot around Easter, people checking out what we had scheduled for Holy Week.

I will try to keep it relevant and updated as much as possible. Posting on Facebook is good because it shows the vibrancy of our parish. The 'insights' page into our Facebook page shows that about 70% of our viewers are women (average age 50) and men viewers were a little younger.

Grounds (Jane Trentin) - spoke with Jim Ollick about putting some pictures of our gardening efforts on the SJN website.

No Reports from other Ministry Leaders

Outreach: Jeff

Soldiers Connection: Please encourage everyone to ask their groups to save soap, shampoo, etc. from their trips.

El Cingulo: Eight women attended the El Cingulo meeting and have become spiritual mothers. Fr. Sunny is so supportive and enthusiastic. He wants SJN to host another opportunity for women to become a spiritual mother for a priest. Mickie's waiting to receive a couple possible dates from the two ladies who do the presentation.

Family Promise: Our first hosting event will be May 31-June 7. We have a second meeting this month on Wednesday, May 20 to follow up on hosting needs. Many parishioners are coming forth in support of this new ministry. We are still in need of folks to sign up for hosting nights. The contact info has been posted in the SJN bulletin and newsletter.

Cancer sewing: Same as last month. They're on retreat until September.

ESL: On vacation until classes resume in August for fall semester.

Bereavement ministry: Nothing to report.

Special Needs: Nothing to report.

No Reports from other Ministry Leaders

Fellowship: Donald

Fall Festival Ministry (Skip Holland): this year's Fall Festival will be October 3 rather than the usual last weekend of September. Will be looking for setup and recovery help, some parish youth leaders (e.g., coaches, umpires, scout leaders) for the dunk tank and other activities. We will start really gearing up end of July/early August.

No reports from other Ministry leaders

Stewardship: Mary Lou (report from Savannah)

On May 2, Mary Lou spoke at 2 of the 3 sessions held at the Regional Stewardship Conference. People of the southeast dioceses were very interested in our approach. They seemed fascinated that our Stewardship Team formed from our Dynamic Catholic Book Club, and that we continue to be inspired by the "good Catholic books" we read.

She shared news that the Archdiocese of Atlanta, after two years of surveys and parish committee and deanery committee groups, identified how we can help families, and the amazing work of the Holy Spirit, that our Stewardship Team had come up with a motto just months before the survey was put out that almost completely matches their findings: Know your faith, Live your faith and Share your faith (as well as Pastoral support of deacons and lay ministers.