

Pastoral Council
Regular Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2005
Parish Residence, 7pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. J.C. Cain, Helen Soto Knaggs, Deacon Mario Renteria, Sylvia Castro, Al Barrette, Art Cardenas, Pam Corn, Leo De La Garza, Salvador Hernandez, Olga Salas, Benny Sustaita
ABSENT UNEXCUSED: Toni Aguirre, Minerva Skeith

- I. Call to Order at 7:10 p.m. by the Chair, Helen Soto Knaggs.
- II. Opening prayer by Helen Knaggs; Mission Statement read by Sylvia Castro.
- III. Minutes of Oct. 13 meeting were approved as written, 1st Art Cardenas, 2nd Sal Hernandez.
The Oct. meeting minutes were too lengthy for bulletin publication, so copies are available in the office and on the parish website.
- IV. PASTORAL REPORT BY FR. J.C. CAIN
 - a. **Vatican II Classes** - The first session focusing on the history of the council, was well attended, with good questions and discussion. The course will run for a total of 5 weeks.
 - b. **Annulments** - The English and Spanish classes presented by Fr. were also well attended.
 - c. **Dia De Los Muertos/All Souls** Mass on Nov. 2, was poorly attended.
 - d. **Senior Luncheon** - The theme for Nov. 15 is "The Body is a Temple". A diabetes checkup, soup lunch, and meditation/prayer time will be provided.
 - e. **Food Pantry** needs continue to grow.
 - f. **11:30 Mass needs a pianist** in the choir.
 - g. **Diaconate Program** – Two of our parishioners, Billy Atkins and Al Barrette, have been received into the diaconate program, for 4 years of study and 1 year of practicum.
- V. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT BY SYLVIA CASTRO
 - a. **Church boiler and air handler** - Equipment will be installed as soon as it arrives. Carrier Corp. is in continuing deliberations with the city to solve the problem of disposal of the church tower water overflow.
 - b. **Office Renovations** are complete and the entire upstairs is shut down. There is already a small reduction of cooling and heating costs, with more expected after a full billing cycle. Council will host an Open House for parishioners on Dec. 4 to highlight and acknowledge the stewardship efforts of an anonymous parishioner who donated the labor.
 - c. **Family Life Center** – plan and action still pending diocesan response.
 - d. **Social Ministry** - The Social Minister position still is not filled. The Food Pantry is running smoothly with the help of volunteers. Gabriel Project is on hold due to lack of a coordinator. The ACTS community and Sylvia Castro are coordinating the Thanksgiving Baskets. Youth ministry will be approached about coordinating the Jesse Tree project.
 - e. **Jamaica** – Profit and Loss Summary sheet was discussed. Total net profit of \$54,711.70 met the income goal. Expenses were reduced by more than \$6000 of projected numbers.
 - f. **Posada** – If bulletin announcement appeals to find a coordinator continue to be fruitless, we may have to cancel the event, scheduled for Dec. 14, at 6:30pm.
 - g. **Dia de las Gracias** event, sponsored by the Societies, was a great success, netting \$2500.
- VI. FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT PAM CORN
 - a. Pam and Fr. will make a financial appeal at all Masses on Nov. 5-6, citing church heating system replacement expenses between \$80,000-\$120,000 and current budget deficits of \$17,225. Each parishioner is urged to contribute a minimum of one hour of wages per earner every Sunday. A Stewardship Vision flyer, including a letter and current parish financial statement of the parish, will be included in the bulletin.
- VII. OLD PASTORAL COUNCIL BUSINESS
 - a. **Nominations Committee** - Leo De La Garza and Art Cardenas will meet with Fr. to submit recommendations for Esmeralda Rincon's replacement.

- b. **Sunday breakfast** sponsored by council is scheduled for Jan. 29 to be spearheaded by Art Cardenas.
 - c. Helen Knaggs will be attending the **Annual Parish Convention**, entitled “Spirituality and the Parish” to be held on November 17-19, 2005 in Fort Worth, Texas.
 - d. **Stewardship in the Hispanic Community Seminar** - Pam Corn, Helen Knaggs and Olga Salas attended the seminar on Nov. 4 at St. Louis Parish and gave feedback to council. Major premises of presenter, Fr. Anthony Taylor of Sacred Heart Parish in Okla., were a better understanding of our covenant with God and stewardship as an act of faithfulness not generosity, setting our priority of having God first, articulating a definition of an active parishioner, and also how to capitalize on the strengths that the immigrant community brings to a parish. Fr. JC will attempt to get a copy of the Spanish video. Helen suggested that we should engage Fr. Taylor to speak to our parish in the spring.
 - e. **Norms Update on Teleconferencing** –Olga Salas submitted the following wording to change the ‘Meetings and Quorum’ section of council norms: “Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair or Pastor, including emergency meetings by teleconferencing when necessary, whereby voting may be conducted using electronic media capabilities. When such a meeting is necessary, a record of minutes should be kept.” Pam Corn made the motion to change the norms accordingly, seconded by Al Barrette. The motion carried unanimously.
 - f. **Communications Plan Prioritization for 2006** –
 - i. The plan is a result of ideas presented at both consulting sessions held this year and focuses on three areas of council communication improvement: 1.) with Parishioners (this includes new and future parishioners, and the immigrant community), 2.) with Staff, and 3.) with Ministries. Olga Salas suggested that we break the 4-page document into manageable pieces by focusing on at least one initiative within each category until it is done well and finished.
 - ii. Between Council and New Parishioners - Deacon Mario and Olga Salas designed and presented a draft of a doorknob outreach flyer to welcome new neighbors and provide parish registration information. Printing and distribution efforts are to be coordinated with staff and other ministries.
 - iii. Between Council and all Parishioners - Sylvia Castro and Olga Salas are designing an area of wall space in the parish hall for posting of council members’ pictures, contact info, meeting minutes, and a suggestion box. Raul Garza volunteered to photograph members. Website will also be updated accordingly.
 - iv. Between Council and Ministries - Fr. Cain requested that it be a top priority to meet with all the ministries to establish methods of communication to disseminate information and announcements.
 - v. Sylvia Castro challenged council to be more involved in the budget forming process in order to fund our future initiatives.
 - g. **Name badges** for council members are ordered and should be in soon.
 - h. **Schedule of Religious Ed Classes** – was presented by Helen Knaggs. Members should try to attend when possible to get a first-hand look at how religious education is progressing.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
- a. **Dec. 8 meeting** of Pastoral Council has been re-scheduled to Dec. 15 due to Fr.’s commitment to the Women’s Spanish ACTS retreat on the 8th.
- IX. Closing Prayer – Art Cardenas
- X. Adjournment at 9:10 pm, 1st Pam Corn, 2nd Salvador Hernandez

Respectfully Submitted by Olga Salas