

Pastoral Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2005  
Parish Residence, 7pm  
Pending Approval

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fr. J.C. Cain, Helen Soto Knaggs, Toni Aguirre, Sylvia Castro, Art Cardenas, Pam Corn, Leo De La Garza, Salvador Hernandez, Olga Salas, Minerva Skeith

**ABSENT EXCUSED:** Benny Sustaita

**ABSENT UNEXCUSED:** Deacon Mario Renteria, Al Barrette

- I. Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by the Chair, Helen Soto Knaggs.
- II. Opening prayer by Fr. J.C. Cain
- III. Minutes of Oct. 13 meeting were approved as amended, 1<sup>st</sup> Sal Hernandez, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pam Corn.
- IV. PASTORAL REPORT BY FR. J.C. CAIN
  - a. **Religious Education** – Youth classes ended this past Sunday for the year, to resume in January. Short term classes for adult education are getting a better response than a year-long approach.
  - b. **OLG Feast day** – Celebrations were well attended with a good balance of liturgical and cultural elements.
  - c. **Youth Ministry** – Director Armida Valles' resignation brings a real loss to the parish. Search will begin immediately for a highly qualified person to replace her in this part-time position and to continue the good work she initiated and accomplished the past three years. Before she leaves, Armida will help with the allocation process for the \$25,000 in youth grants we have received.
  - d. **Social Ministry** – We are still looking for someone to fill this full-time position. Thanksgiving food drive received a good response from ACTS and the parish community and successfully fed 40 families. The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are serving 70 families per week. For the future, we hope to collaborate with neighboring churches (Holy Cross & AME) to serve the poor.
  - e. **Senior Luncheon** – The elderly community continues to enjoy the educational opportunities and faith sharing. Next one is Tu., Dec. 20. Council is encouraged to participate.
  - f. **The Posada** – was a wonderful, ecumenical experience with Holy Cross & AME church, incorporating African dance and Gospel music Christmas carols into the traditional celebration.
  - g. **ACTS** – The first Spanish Women's ACTS retreat last week was a tremendous success.
- V. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT BY SYLVIA CASTRO
  - a. **Church Heating** – May be partially operational by this weekend. Our diocesan loan payments will begin 30 days from loan issue date, which will be issued by the end of this year.
  - b. **Sacrarium** – is due to be repaired next week, as well as the regular sink in the sacristy.
  - c. **Youth Grant** – Armida is in the process of assessing how the \$18,000 grant from the Kennedy Memorial Foundation will be allocated. Educational programs are a priority. Grant writing opportunities will continue to be pursued for renovating the youth room in the church basement.
  - d. **Family Life Center** – plan and action still pending diocesan response.
  - e. **Los Niños Child Care** – is urgently in need of providers. Babysitting services for Masses and Baptism Classes may have to be suspended until new staff can be secured.
  - f. **Social Ministry** – Despite various postings, there are no candidates currently for the job. There was a huge outpouring of help from St. Louis Parish in response to our food pantry shortage.
  - g. **Future Projects** – A list was provided for future facility needs as budget allows. High priority is the installation of gates to the church basement to protect from transient abuse.
- VI. FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT BY PAM CORN
  - h. Our cash position is ahead of this time last year, due to vacancy savings from unstaffed positions. Stewardship message will continue to be promoted. Next pulpit talk is scheduled for Jan. 22 and will include a visual display of a thermometer of collections vs. budget to highlight the shortfall, as well as pictures of the old and new heating systems and a copy of the payment check. Minerva suggested that the annual budget figure be divided by the number of parish families, to publicize the minimum amount that every family should be contributing, being careful not to 'dis-incent' those who give more than that amount.

## Pastoral Council Minutes

### Page 2

#### VII. OLD PASTORAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

- a. **Nominations Committee** – Fr. Cain is awaiting a response from a candidate. If the person declines, he'll refer to the suggestions offered by the Nominating committee.
- b. **Council Sunday Breakfast** - is scheduled for Jan. 29 to be spearheaded by Art Cardenas.
- c. **Annual Parish Convention** – Helen Knaggs reported that what she learned there last month in the exchange of ideas was very beneficial and urged all members to participate in future seminars. Gleaned ideas to be implemented include incorporating a fifteen minute faith sharing time at every council meeting in order to develop together spiritually and to pray for wisdom to lead the parish together, with members taking turns facilitating this, beginning with Leo De La Garza in Jan. Also, Fr. Cain will check into getting famed Oblate theologian, Ron Rohleiser, who spoke at the Conference to come and speak to us.
- d. **Calling Tree** – Toni Aguirre will head this committee, assisted by Leo and Helen, to organize the contact lists for all organizations and ministries in order to establish a communication method for sending widespread emails to parishioners and setting up a telephone tree for those without email. Fr. Cain requested that something be in place by Jan. 30.
- e. **Neighborhood Outreach Flyer** – Olga Salas will check with Mario Renteria on progress. Sylvia Castro will follow up on this project in January.
- f. **Office Open House** – Good member participation and beneficial in disseminating message of stewardship efforts.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Leadership Mentoring** – Sylvia Castro commended Helen for assisting the Guadalupanas at their last meeting and encouraged continuing leadership mentoring for all ministries, sodalities and parish organizations, and establishment of bylaws for all organizations.
- b. **Grant Proposals** – Helen requested copies for council of the grant requests we made and of Armida's Youth Plan and Vision, in order to prepare ourselves to give input for grant allocation. Also, maybe Armida could make an informational presentation to us before she leaves
- c. **Hall Memorial Wall** – Completion of the wall will be promoted to the parish. Less than 100 brick sponsorships are needed to complete the project, at a cost of \$125 each.
- d. **Next Meeting** – is currently scheduled for Jan. 12 but Fr. and several members will be unavailable due to Men's ACTS retreat. If we cannot get a quorum, meeting will be re-scheduled. Fr. Cain stated that council should not be prevented from meeting when he is unable to attend, but should proceed normally without him. For January business, members should bring ideas for Centennial Celebration. Also, we will plan open meetings for 2006.

IX. Closing Prayer and Intentions – Minerva Skeith

X. Adjournment at 9:15 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Pam Corn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Salvador Hernandez

Respectfully Submitted by Olga Salas