

Pastoral Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2006  
Parish Residence, 7pm  
Pending Approval

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

- I. Call to Order at 7:15 p.m. by the Chair, Helen Soto Knaggs.
- II. Roll Call – Olga Salas; Opening prayer – Minerva Skeith; Parish Mission Statement – Olga Salas
- III. Faith Sharing Reflection – Leo De La Garza offered a reflection on seeing the dignity and value in others as a true sign of respect for them.
- IV. Minutes of Dec. 15 meeting were approved as written, 1<sup>st</sup> Art Cardenas, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pam Corn.
- V. **PASTORAL REPORT BY FR. J.C. CAIN**
  - a. **ACTS** –The first Spanish retreat was held for women in December and was very instrumental in bridging communications with the Spanish-speaking community. The Men’s English retreat was held in January. All of the ACTS retreats have been excellent opportunities for leadership development of parishioners and have resulted in a dynamic spiritual experience, followed by renewed commitment and involvement in parish life.
  - b. **Family Life Center** – plan and action still pending diocesan response.
  - c. **Religious Education** – Classes resume January 22.
  - a. **Los Niños Child Care Workers** – Several candidates have interviewed and are undergoing the necessary training to be ‘Ethics & Integrity’ certified, in order to be eligible to work with children.
- V. **BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT BY SYLVIA CASTRO**
  - b. **Church Heating** – The boiler, air handlers, and all associated electrical and plumbing work has been completed and is operational. Carrier is still working with the City on inspections and permits and will return to initialize the AC system when it becomes necessary.
  - c. **Sacrarium** – is still in the process of being repaired, also the regular sink in the sacristy.
  - d. **Resignation of Administrative Assistant** – Art Lara has resigned effective January 27. Applicants are being interviewed to fill the position.
  - e. **Diocesan Accreditation for Business Manager** – Sylvia Castro will be attending a two-year, 55-hour accreditation course on Human Resource issues for all parish Business Administrators.
  - f. **Social Ministry** - Interviewing of candidates to direct programs continues. Food pantry collaboration continues by staff with all East Austin neighborhood church food pantries and meal providers in order to team up to meet increasing needs.
  - g. **Youth Ministry** – Interviewing of candidates to direct programs continues. OLG has been approached by the ‘Austin Toros’, a minor league basketball team, in order to mentor our youth by providing presentations, free tickets to their events and opportunities for the youth to meet the players and coaches.
  - h. **Budget Preparation Schedule** – was issued for council to provide input on budget requests and priorities for the parish, with preparation commencing in Feb. and culminating in June.
  - i. **Abuse of Church Property** – Council approved the requisition of estimate bids to install security gates and lighting around church property to protect from transient abuse. Sylvia Castro will advise Council of cost estimates before proceeding with installation. There was additional discussion about long-term security issues as the neighborhood changes. Mario Renteria will look into security audits from APD.
- VI. **FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT BY PAM CORN**
  - a. All financial reports were presented and explained, as well as a Metrics Report with specifics of parishioner contribution levels. In short, approximately half of our parish families contribute using envelopes. At least 48% of parish families contribute nothing at all. If every family were to participate, giving a minimum of \$6.60 a week, we could meet our budget. There was much discussion on possible ways to get every one to participate in supporting our parish, including having annual pledges.
  - b. Stewardship pulpit talk by Fr. JC and Pam Corn, re-scheduled for Feb. 4-5, will push envelope registration and target non-contributors.

- c. Council applauded the Stewardship Committee for publishing a definition of an active parishioner as giving 5% AGI, as well as time and talent, and suggested that bulletin publication of the definition should continue for at least two more weeks. Council also endorsed the idea of limiting full parish services as consequences for people who are not active parishioners.
- d. Teo Tijerina offered to be a council liaison to the Stewardship Committee.

**VII. OLD PASTORAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- a. **Nomination, Election and Installation of New Member** – Fr. Cain’s pastoral appointment to fill the vacancy created by Esmeralda Rincon’s resignation is Teo Tijerina. Esmeralda’s unexpired term of office is from June 14, 2004 to June 14, 2007. Motion to approve made by Pam Corn, seconded by Art Cardenas. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Council Breakfast** - is on schedule for Jan. 29, 6am, led by Art Cardenas. There will be a food preparation session on Sat.; Sal will make menudo; Helen will pick up pastry.
- c. **Youth Grant Report**– Sylvia Castro presented a report on allocation of \$25k total of grants received from the Kennedy Memorial Foundation, Strake, and an anonymous donor. \$15k goes to Education and Leadership Development programs, such as SAT prep classes, scholarships for SAT application fees, college campus visits, leadership seminars and the ACTS retreat. 8K will go to the Mission trip experience and 2k to the Junior High Youth Program. The youth director will document programs, expenses and results for reporting back to the foundations.
- d. **Calling Tree** – A council liaison was assigned to every parish group. Administrative/Maintenance & Upkeep-Sylvia Castro, Men’s Ministry-Leo de la Garza, Religious Education, Youth & Social Ministries-Fr. JC Cain, Liturgical Ministries-Al Barrette & Olga Salas, Religious Organizations (ACTS, Carmelitas, Guadalupanas, Legion of Mary, Matachines, Sagrado Corazon, Vela Perpetua) – Salvador Hernandez, Toni Aguirre
- e. **Neighborhood Outreach Flyer** –Sylvia Castro has a bid for 1000 flyers for \$152. She and Olga will proceed with design plans while Mario continues to collaborate with distribution plans.
- f. **Ron Rolheiser** – Helen distributed an information packet on the head of the Oblate School in San Antonio. Hopes are to secure him as a speaker as part of the Centennial celebration events.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Redoing Stations of the Cross & Candle Area** – Salvador Hernandez was approached by John Cobb with an offer to re-buff the stations and add lighting. Council is open to his ideas and is interested in seeing his plan for renovation, including logistics as well as work samples. Also, Sal will work with the Guadalupanas to see how the candle area in the narthex can be improved.
- b. **Golf Tourney** – Benny Sustaita reported a tentative date of June 3, 2006.
- c. **Next Meeting** – February 9. Staff will attend to give us information on parish needs, programs, services, and vision for budget planning.
- d. **First quarterly open Meeting** – Scheduled for March 9, 2006.

IX. Closing Prayer and Intentions – Fr. JC Cain

X. Adjournment at 9:40 pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Pam Corn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Helen Knaggs

Respectfully Submitted by Olga Salas