

Pastoral Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2006  
Parish Residence, 7pm  
Pending Approval

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

ABSENT EXCUSED: Toni Aguirre, Pam Corn

ABSENT UNEXCUSED: Al Barrette

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 7:07 p.m. by Chair, Helen Soto Knaggs.
- II. OPENING PRAYER – Fr. J.C. Cain; Parish Mission Statement & Roll Call – Olga Salas
- III. MINUTES of Jan. 19 meeting approved as amended, 1<sup>st</sup> Leo De La Garza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Salvador Hernandez.
- IV. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

a. **FRED GALINDO – STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR**

The slideshow presentation and pulpit talks last weekend by Fr. & Pam Corn were well received, resulting in 74 new family registrations. Council input is requested for the first stewardship letter to the parish, which Council will sign with individual names listed. Mailout is scheduled for Feb. 25. New committee members are being recruited, as well as people to do testimonials. A timetable is in place; more visuals are being developed to place in the parish hall. One goal is to develop a pledge card focusing on what we give to the Lord. A children's bank is being developed to get the children involved also. Council is encouraged to attend meetings, the first Thursday of the month.

b. **MARTI SALAS – DIRECTOR OF FORMATION & WORSHIP**

**R.E.** - There are about 440 students in the youth religious education program. Emphasis is given to teacher retention, with efforts toward teacher preparation and providing help with classes, so there's been a very low teacher turnover in the last 3 years. The USCCB-approved teaching materials which are used build on themselves each year for a solid doctrinal foundation. A better series has been chosen for the Spanish speaking children. A dozen middle-schoolers will attend a Youth Rally in Bryan this month. Participation is being urged for an upcoming rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade camp. There are about 10 youth candidates in RCIA. RE tuition brings in about \$6500, with the parish subsidizing up to \$11,000 of the annual budget. Budget wish list: Lenten calendars, bible sets for every classroom by grade level (~ 250 bibles @ \$7 each). Council is urged to visit an RE class to affirm and reinforce the good work being done. Helen suggested that council could sponsor a reception on Catechetical Sunday. Teo suggested that Council recognize a ministry publicly, once a month.

**LITURGY** – Gatherings have been hosted at Fr.'s house to thank and recognize ministers and to share ideas for improvements to ministry. Goals are to develop leadership so that when someone leaves the ministry it doesn't disintegrate, to focus on minister education, to improve minister reliability, and to foster reverence at Mass by the assembly. Liturgy budget receives the overages from the kitchen proceeds. Budget wish list: furniture for the sanctuary, educational and training materials, new vestments for the Centennial celebration, Spanish hymnals, sponsoring ministers to attend liturgical conferences.

c. **ARMIDA VALLES – DIRECTOR, YOUTH MINISTRIES**

Armida is moving to Dallas the second week of March to begin her new job in her full-time career. However, she plans to devote two full weeks before leaving, to complete plans for the year for youth ministry, with documentation and how-to manuals included. When she started 3 years ago as a part-time director, the youth group had 8 members and a \$1500 budget. Since then, the ministry has seen tremendous growth, with about 70 youth participating and the receipt of \$25,000 in grants. Because of the grants, fundraising efforts have been reduced. OLG is the first parish in Austin to sponsor a Teen ACTS retreat and preparations are in progress for the March retreat. Monday night YOUTH LIFE continues to be popular with the teens, as they discuss issues like spirituality and sexuality within a faith context. Mission trips to Tijuana, St. Louis and San Luis Potosi will continue. The youth are having board elections to elect officers (Pres., VP, Secretary, Chaplain, Historian). Leadership training is planned.

Budget Needs: Getting a FULL-TIME director is the #1 priority, more attention to Jr. High students, possible RE classes for parents on Monday nights.

V. **PASTORAL REPORT BY FR. J.C. CAIN**

- a. **FEEDBACK ON STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION** – Overall good response from the parish. Visual aspects helped people connect with the message. Clarification needed for the 5% tithes to the church as a goal to strive toward.
- a. **LOS NIÑOS CHILD CARE** – Lack of childcare is resulting in an increase in noise at Masses.

- VI. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT BY SYLVIA CASTRO**
- b. **CHURCH HEATING** – Carrier is still working with the City on permits for the boiler.
  - c. **SACRARIUM** – Repair was begun but then halted due to increasing costs. Project is on hold.
  - d. **SOCIAL MINISTRY** – Recruiting and interviewing of candidates continues. Direct intakes for help have been discontinued due to lack of staff. Sylvia is meeting with an architect and a general contractor to draw up plans for the future expansion of the food and clothing pantry areas. Schematics and budgets are required in order to seek funding from various foundations. The clothing closet has been condensed to only service emergency cases.
  - e. **STAFFING** – Recruiting and interviewing of candidates to direct the youth program and for the administrative position continues.
  - f. **REGISTRATION DRIVE** – More than 70 new families have registered and about 50 families have updated their info on our database. Some already registered parishioners were not receiving contribution envelopes because that used to be a choice. Now everyone will receive them.
  - g. **PAPER RECYCLING BIN** – Feedback was solicited from council on a proposal to install a paper recycling dumpster on church property. OLG will receive a small monetary compensation depending on the weight. Length of the contract, pickup schedules, and location of the dumpster are at our discretion. Mario requested that green space not be used, as that area serves as a neighborhood park. Consensus was that it was a good idea, in order to foster environmental protection and education within our community.
- VII. FINANCE COUNCIL REPORTS EMAILED BY PAM CORN** - Collections were up by \$3000 after the stewardship pulpit talk by Fr. JC and Pam.
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS**
- b. **MARCH 9 OPEN COUNCIL MEETING** – A planning committee was established comprised of Helen, Minerva, Sal, Teo and Olga, to setup the format and agenda.
  - c. **COUNCIL BREAKFAST** – Proceeds were \$1129. Special thanks go out to all the spouses of council members that helped. For future efforts, suggestions were made to get more prep help on the Saturday before, schedule the breakfast early enough to clear everyone's calendars for availability, and get more info on procedures to be used in the kitchen, including the health code.
  - d. **CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT– BY ART CARDENAS**  
The theme is 'Celebrating our Past, Present and Future'. One or two events are planned for each quarter with a tie-in to the Jamaica. Possibilities are being explored for an offsite event with an outdoor Mass. Overall budget will be \$35-50K. Groups to be solicited for funding are the parish (10k), the Oblates (2500), Jamaica (cake sale, bingo), golf tourney (5k), the private sector, Pastoral Council for one event ('Flamingo' donation for a dance). A special working meeting of council is requested to set up planning committees (ex. historical, publicity, multimedia presentations, guest speakers, fundraising). Fifteen RCIA people have responded to the call for volunteers. A pulpit appeal will be used to solicit parishioner help.
  - e. **COMMUNICATIONS PLAN** – Raul Garcia has offered to devise an email distribution list for disseminating parish info, similar to the one he already does for ACTS. The Neighborhood Outreach Flyer is ready. Olga will confirm distribution plan with Mario before authorizing printing.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
- a. **SOCIETIES STRUCTURE & ORGANIZATION** – There was lengthy discussion about certain problems being experienced by some of the societies, the ripple effect they are having on the parish, and how to best resolve the issues. Fr., Helen, Mario, and Minerva will meet with the parties involved.
  - b. **NEXT MEETING** – March 9, First open Meeting, in the parish hall.
- X. CLOSING PRAYER AND INTENTIONS** – Teo Tijerina
- XI. ADJOURNMENT AT 10 PM**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY OLGA SALAS