

St Patrick's Pastoral Council Meeting

Hutto Texas

July 30, 2013

7:00 pm Opening Prayer led by Father Jim.

Members Present:

Wendy Nassour Ruben Carlin Luisa Lerma Hank Thoresz
Edward Sadler Keith Moore Janet Gallagher Aloysius Okorie

Father Jim Deaconson

Members not present:

Donna Brandel Father Michael

Additional Attendees:

Tony Befi (Finance Council) Rosie Garza Pat Nassour Patty Scott

Meeting minutes:

The May Council meeting minutes having been reviewed and approved by the council members on line, Wendy Nassour made a motion to accept the minutes, second Ed Sadler, all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Hank Thoresz passed out the permanent meeting schedule. The dates for upcoming meetings are 8/27, 9/24, 10/29, 11/26, off during December, 1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29 and 5/27. If there are any conflicts that require rescheduling please contact Hank. It was also noted that the Pastoral council meeting minutes are available on the church's website under the About Us/Pastoral Council/meeting minutes on left side of page.

2. Father Jim and Tony Befi, Finance Council representative, gave an overview of the increased offertory program. Currently the pledge envelope returns are at 11 percent. There has not been much change or response since the initial letters were mailed out to each family. A discussion was held regarding the next mail outs and statistical reports that will be updated in September. The good news is we are half way to our goal of \$6000 per month. Father Jim has noted that attendance at Mass has improved every week.

3. Keith Moore, Ed Sadler and Ruben Carlin (Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee) have collected bylaws and Pastoral Council guidelines from St. Williams, St Elizabeth, and St John Vianney. All parties agreed that the diocese guidelines needed minor tweaking to make the bylaws

guidelines specific to St. Patrick's. Efforts are underway to locate previous version of Pastoral bylaws and guidelines from former Council members. Keith, Ed and Ruben will work with Father Jim to craft a document for review and possible adoption. The first meeting date is August 6, 2013 at 7PM.

4. Wendy Nassour updated us on the Marketing ministry. She handed out possible options and cost sheets for advertising in the Hutto News and Taylor Press. A discussion was held regarding this option. This item was tabled for further review and cost estimates. Hank Thoresz stated he has been talking with officials at the City of Hutto regarding signage on the kiosks near Highway 79 and Ed Schmidt Boulevard. This location would direct people to St Patrick from Highway 79 and has a cost factor of \$100 per sign, up to two, then \$100 plus \$15 per month for any additional signs. Hank states that unfortunately, there aren't any of the Hutto kiosks that would meet our needs. Both Hank and Fr. Jim will continue to pursue this issue, but feel that it will be quite a while before we will find a solution. Hank Thoresz also stated he has looked into posting of information in the Hutto News and other printed media under their Event Calendars and had asked Cathy King and Janet McLaughlin to consider accepting this ministry to support our parish organizations. Both ladies have accepted pending approval by Father Jim. Posting in the Event calendars is free and can be run consecutive weeks. Wendy Nassour noted a request to starting adoration, weekly. Father Jim suggested a Holy Hour on Friday evenings from 7 to 8 pm as a starting point with weekly adoration expanding from Holy Hours. It was decided that first Holy Hour will be Friday, September 13 and a second Holy Hour scheduled on Friday, October 4, 2013.

New Business:

1. Tony Befi, Finance Council, updated the Pastoral Council regarding the meeting with the Bishop, et al, and the future interest rates and payment plans agreed on by the Diocese. The agreement will be reviewed annually along with St Patrick ability to pay. It was noted that our interest rate currently is 3 ½ % annually making the mortgage payment \$24,000. The diocese is still paying the building insurance and offsetting the cost of the priest. Mr. Befi will address the congregation at a future date to provide details on this financial arrangement. A suggestion was made that the Finance Council posts information and financial overview documents on the church webpage. Father Jim is a strong believer in transparency. A motion was made by Wendy Nassour asking the Finance Council provide the Pastoral Council with quarterly updates. The motion was seconded by Keith Moore, all in favor, motion carried.

2. Pat Nassour addressed the Council about fund raising opportunities. The first item presented was the RADA Cutlery fundraising. This service provides a catalog for kitchen tools and cutlery that may be ordered by the parishioners. Forty (40) percent of sales are retained by the parish. Discussion followed and questions asked. Wendy Nassour made a motion to table this item until further research on costs and questions regarding purchasing volume can be answered. Ed Sadler seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

3. Pat Nassour presented information regarding Orange Santa, a Hutto community program that provides gifts and a full meal to each family in December. The program ties in with the St. Patrick's Angel Tree ministered by our Saint Vincent DePaul Ministry. Pat Nassour suggested that St Patrick partner with the Hutto has a Heart/Orange Santa program providing more visibility to the Church in the community. She verified that they will accept names from the parish. A concern expressed by the Council was what happens to the parishioners outside of the Hutto area that may need help. Pat Nassour stated those parishioners would be handled as usual with the Angel Tree. Hank Thoresz made a motion to partner with Hutto has a Heart/Orange Santa with our Angel Tree and if some parishioners do not meet the parameters

of Orange Santa, they will be handled as usually with the Angle Tree. Ed Sadler seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

4. Father Jim and Rosie Garza started the discussion of the need to move the Adult Catechism from Wednesday nights due a conflict with Religious Education on Wednesday evenings. After much discussion and comparison of other meetings being held at the church and other starting times, a motion was made by Wendy Nassour that we continue to hold the Adult Catechism on Wednesday evenings but change the starting time to 7:30 p.m. after the Religious Education classes are done. This time change would take effect once religious Education starts this fall. Keith Moore seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed. Father Jim asked for clarification on the Healing Mass scheduled a St Patrick. Hank Thoresz stated the Mass is scheduled Friday, September 20, 2013 and notice will be posted in the Catholic Spirit by the diocese committee for the Charismatic Renewal along with bulletin inserts and flyers. Fr. Jim asked the Council members and guests who would be involved in the Healing Mass to meet with him after the meeting to discuss the specifics for the Healing Mass.

5. Hank Thoresz asked if there were any other questions, concerns or issues needing relayed to the Council. Keith Moore recognized Ruben Carlin for all the hard work with the air conditioner replacements and Rudy Lerma for assistance with the cost reductions replacement air filters. Keith also stated the progress on fresh air filters and other issue to extend the life of the ac units. Hank Thoresz said he was in contact with Karsten Blok regarding the Pastoral council updated photographs for the hallway. Mr. Thoresz also asked if the Council has issues with approving the minutes by email prior to the meetings. Father Jim reminded the group that issue would be best listed in the bylaws being updated next month. Wendy Nassour asked about how to get the kids involved in the church again. Pat Nassour raised a question regarding the building if the building fund could be used to pay down the parish debt. Tony Befi stated the when the fund was established, the parish was told that the purpose of the fund was to make major improvements in the building and to help or cover any major building expense not cover by the parish budget, so it could not be use for to pay down the debt. Fr. Jim mentioned that we could add an envelope for debt reduction, but thought that this is a discussion he should have with Fr. Michael. Ed Sadler stated the mood of the parish was improving with the change in tone from debt, debt, debt to we are not closing St. Patrick's but working on a solution. Thank you Father Jim!

There being no further business, Father Jim closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:25 pm.