

Meeting Minutes

Saint Theresa Parish Pastoral Council

September 26, 2007

Official Minutes

Members Attending: Fr. Chuck Kieffer, Fr. Mathew Plathottam, Amy Caffarello, Becky Henry, Rick Raymond, Neil Urban, Mary Muir, Billie Young, Sandra Smith, Kurt Hammond, Vincent Berkley
Members absent: Rob Kubasko

7:05 Opening Prayer offered by Fr. Chuck.

7:08 Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of May 16, 2007 was moved by Neil and seconded by Kurt. The minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

7:10 Pastor's Report

Fr. Chuck began with a report on the renovation of the convent chapel. New tile flooring has been installed and the wall redone behind the altar. An icon crucifix has been mounted.

A review of upcoming events followed:

- Beginning with the masses the weekend of October 13 & 14, Father Mike Gilson will present a parish retreat entitled: Sinful People Called to Serve. Fr. Mike will be the homilist for the weekend masses and then present two evenings of reflection at 7 p.m. on October 15 and 16.
- A reception to express our appreciation for Fr. Mike's contribution to St. Theresa Parish will be held on Sunday, October 28th after the 11 a.m. mass.
- The annual fall festival is Sunday, October 21st from noon to 7 p.m.
- During the weekend masses on October 28th and November 4th, Fr. Chuck will be preaching on the new offertory program.
- On November 11th, Fr. Mathew Plathottam will celebrate 40 years of priesthood. The parish will honor his years of service with a reception after the 11 a.m. mass.

Fr. Chuck reported on upcoming activity within the Central Phoenix Deanery which will hold a meeting November 14th to discuss implementation of diocesan corporate restructuring which will get underway in 2008. Fr. Chuck also reviewed the parish visits he makes as Dean which include a questionnaire for pastoral council members prior to his major visits every 5 years. He shared a copy of this questionnaire for us to use as a tool to reflect on the goals and accomplishments of our pastoral council.

7:30 Old Business

New Parishioner Welcoming Committee:

Mary and Joe Sotelo met in May to review the proposed goals and direction for this group. Amy indicated that Terez Sanguine is still interested in leading this effort to reach out to new members of St. Theresa. Council members discussed various avenues for disseminating information about parish ministries to new members and ensuring that their questions are identified and they receive a response to all concerns. Rick will join Mary and Terez in this effort.

7:50 New Business

Parish Wide Census Feasibility:

Mary presented an idea based on a neighborhood canvas done in her parish in Vermont with the aim to reach other Catholics in the area that may not attend church or be aware of the ministries we offer. Discussion continued on ways to reach out to members, including those parishioners who are registered but inactive. Fr. Chuck reported on an upcoming diocesan program in the 2008 Lenten season that will include TV public service announcements encouraging people to reconnect with their local parishes. Other ideas for reaching out included a direct mail campaign or invitation to come to church. Council members expressed enthusiasm and volunteered to assist with this effort as it goes forward.

Pastoral Council Purpose:

Amy shared some of her thoughts on the purpose of the pastoral council. She hopes for us this year to focus on being a means of communication between parishioners and our pastor. We need to be visible to the community and be available to listen to concerns and suggestions. We are always welcomed at parish registration receptions and are encouraged to wear our nametags at mass. Please listen and bring feedback to our next meeting!

8:00 Open Discussion

Amy reminded everyone of the need to attend Called to Protect training as parish volunteers. Dates for sessions around the diocese can be found on www.safeenvironmenttraining.org as well as extensive information about the programs and requirements.

8:15 Closing Prayer offered by Amy.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Becky Henry, Secretary