

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Monday, Oct 16, 2017 7:00 – 8:00 PM Parish Hall

Present: Fr. Clement, Fr. Paul, Tita Gontang, Jean Edwards, Claudia Alcantara, Lynn Amaty, Joe Lynch, Barbara Reed, Jessica Selba, Fred Silva, Tony Terracciano, Matt Zoller

Absent: Deacon Axel, Deacon Jim, Debbie Depta, Tonie Holodick, Joe Woodhead

Opening Prayer: Fred Silva
Minutes for September meeting: Approved as submitted

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE: Fr. Clement

- Fr. Clement thanked Jessica Selba and her committee for the successful Fiesta.
- We are still awaiting a written response from the Diocese relative to the amount of money that the parish can borrow for the new building.
- Bylaws changes are being reviewed by Fr Clement, Matthew and Jean on Oct 18.

OLD BUSINESS

FIESTA 2017 – Jessica and Tita provided a written report on the Fiesta (report attached to the summary). Highlights are:

- 275 people attended (262 paid; musicians were free)
- Total amount collected \$541; expenses paid \$165; profit \$376.
- Donations from vendors valued at \$681 (Lowe's, DJ, Walmart, Texas Road House, and Little Caesars)
- Lessons learned and quotes from parishioners were also included.

The event was deemed a great success. For the future, it was recommended that there be more planning up front to ensure that all parishioners have ample notice next time; also recommended that the committee meet more often. Council also recommended that Thank Yous be sent to the vendors; Jessica will be doing that.

NEW BUSINESS

More Church Community Events

Given the success of Fiesta, Tita questioned if the Council should/ could coordinate additional events to “build our church community” such as a brunch or some type of cultural event, where parishioners would bring ethnic foods with perhaps a written description of each dish.

After much discussion, a possible pan cake dinner was suggested for February 13 (Shrove Tuesday - day before Ash Wednesday) from 5 – 7. **Tita asked Joe Lynch and Barbara Reed to work on this idea and bring it back to the Council at the November meeting.**

2018 Parish Calendar

Fr. Clement noted that we need to be mindful of the many events during the year and proposed that we hold a Calendar Meeting the first of the year to coordinate everything. Ministries will be asked to review their plans for 2018 and come to the meeting to develop a calendar for the year. 2018 Ministry presentations could also be set at that meeting. **Lynn, Tony T and Jean will coordinate this.**

Youth Activities/Fund Raisers_

Lynn reported that the youth group is planning a Bake Sale and will also be serving Arroz con Leche (Mexican Rice Pudding) on Oct 29th after Masses in the Grotto. They are also planning an All Hallows Eve party that evening from 5-7.

Coats on pews

Tony T expressed concern that a few parishioners are hanging their coats on the end of pews – hanging out into the aisle; this is a tripping hazard and does not give a good appearance. Council recommended that the Ushers ask parishioners to place their coats on the pews, if this occurs.

Other Events

There are many activities occurring in the parish such as

- Rosary at Gateway Park in Seaford this past Saturday, Oct 14. About 25 parishioners attended;
- Knights Living Rosary this coming Monday, Oct 23 at 6:30 in the Church. Refreshments will be served after in the hall;
- Claudia reported that 80 Hispanic parishioners filled two buses to attend V-Encuentro of the Diocese of Wilmington on Oct 14 at St. Thomas More Preparatory in Magnolia, DE. NOTE: The goal of this ministry is *“to discern ways in which the Church in the US can better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence and to strength the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization as missionary disciples serving the entire church.”* Fr. Paul, who also attended, said the Bishop was impressed with our Parish’s representation that day.

Upcoming Parish/Ministry Events – the Council reviewed current and upcoming events:

Margaret’s Purse Presentation/Becky Evaristo	Oct 14/15
Retreat for Pastoral Care/Liturgy Ministers --Deacon Axel Blanco, presenter	Nov 11 – 9 Mass followed by presentation
ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE RETREAT	
Squires’ Presentation/Greg Washburn	Nov 11/12
Anointing Mass hosted by Pastoral Care	Dec 2 Saturday, 11 Mass followed by luncheon
St. Vincent de Paul Presentation/Pat Hughes	Dec 9/10

Fr. Clement announced that we will be having visiting clergy in Oct and Nov.

- Oct 29th – a priest and nun from Guatemala will be at the Spanish Mass at 1 pm
- Nov 18/19 – a priest representing *Food for the Poor* will be saying all Masses.
- Nov 25/26 – a presentation will be made on UNBOUND which is *“an international nonprofit founded by lay Catholics grounded in the Gospel call to put the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable first. We build relationships of mutual respect and support that bridge cultural, religious and economic divides.”*

Next Meeting: Monday November 20, 2017

Closing Prayer: Tony Terracciano

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Edwards, Secretary
10/18/17

Attachment: Fiesta Report

Fiesta Report

275 people attended the event

262 people paid to attend the event

Amount collected for the event: \$541

Expenses \$165

Balance... \$376

Donations from Sponsors total... \$681

- Lowes donated flowers for the tables and sand for the sand art craft..... \$76
- DJ donated services..... \$400
- Walmart donated 100 pcs of chicken..... \$75
- Texas Road House donated 2 dinners for 2.....\$100 (approximate)
- Little Caesars donated pizza \$30

All decorations were hand-made. Singers from both communities were represented.

22 appetizers were collected

16 main dishes were collected

17 desserts were collected

*There were also donations of cups and plates and utensils above what was requested... extras went to the church for bereavements.

Improvements for next year...

- Set a time for dishes to be dropped off and advertise the time (Example: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm)
- Allow time for volunteers to pray and eat before the event (Example: 2:00pm - 2:30pm)
- Advertise it is an alcohol-free event
- When event starts-- have entertainment eat first and perform after eating, and while others are waiting to get their food (reserve their tables).
- Prepare silverware on the table ahead of time. (This created a bottleneck and delay at the event.)
- Maybe have one side get apps, while the other side gets a main dish. It worked much better when Jessica called table by table. The main course and dessert also went much faster because they already had their plate and silverware. Plating desserts and prepackaging them also made it quicker to be served.
- Voting went fairly well... It would be nice to have the dish name next to the numbers in the future...that way they can tell the dish even with no number. It would also have been nice to have more help
- Place all the games/ activities outside... Making maracas would have gone better outside (too hidden)
- Less chicken and more cold cuts
- Need more volunteers for the games
- Have water, lemonade and iced tea instead of soda
- Stamp hands after taking the tickets; have guests enter in the front door
- Announce additional prizes up front

Winners of the events:

Best dessert – Miriam Hernandez

Best main meal- Lynn Drenth' family

Best appetizer - Scordo family