

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes - August 12, 2009

If you have any questions or concerns for the Pastoral Council, you can contact the Council at the link found on our parish website: nativitycatholicchurch.org

Meeting was opened by Fr. Proulx with a scripture reading and reflection. Janet Caraballo welcomed our guests.

This Man Is You – Jeff Joaquin

This is a man's leadership program that was founded in 2003 and was implemented in Houston TX by a group of exceptional men who decided to pool their talents to do something for Catholic men all across America. The theology of the program was reviewed by leading theologians on marriage, the family and then promotional materials were professionally prepared. In the first year the program was spread in cities throughout TX, numerous states and Canada. The program is divided into 2 – 13 week sessions, one in the fall and one in the spring. Time frame for a morning session would be 5:45am to 7:30am. A typical morning session consists of gathering over breakfast while light entertainment (sports highlights or bloopers) designed to facilitate social interaction; next a transitional religious music video is shown... A Master of Ceremonies then helps to guide men to feel comfortable with the overall program. This is followed by a presentation from the clergy projected from a DVD onto a large screen. The men then break into small groups for discussion and reflection and dismissal. There will be a speaker at all masses in September with more details

St Martin de Porres Benevolence Ministry - Althea Lee shared with the council information on this important ministry.

Nativity Parish is no longer affiliated with the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Council. However, we are still doing the work with the poor that were started more than 30 years ago. Nativity Parish does this through many outreach ministries one being St. Martin de Porres Benevolence Ministry. Through this ministry information is shared and they work closely with ministries for the poor at St. Stephens and Bell Shoals Baptist Church. The members of this ministry are very conscientious and take the time to look at the person who has requested help. Home visits give them the opportunity to visualize the needs of their clients, especially the elderly and families with children. This ministry feels the need to help the whole person or family, not just with the basics but also with spiritual assistance. When this ministry began they served approximately 8 people per week, they now serve 8 clients per day. This ministry receives a stipend of less than \$2,000.00 per month from the parish; so close attention must be paid to distribution of funds coupled with being good stewards of your money. This small group of volunteers is dedicated and does a great job in our community under extenuating circumstances. These volunteers have found themselves in challenging circumstances, which involved threats, verbal abuse and placed in situations where they consider calling law enforcement. The Food Pantry has generously supplied them with gift cards, which enable them to help with gas money. Liz Schenk from the pastoral care office and her team have been extremely supportive. These ministries share a great example of team spirit. The faithful crew of St. Martin de Porres ministry consists of: Jean Masterson, Arturo Rivera, Patricia Lasota, Joseph Casaccia, Lenny Coe, Javier Martinez and Danny Diaz.

Althea asked that the parish keep them and this ministry in their prayers and if you can assist them in any way, they will be very grateful. Althea was asked to write an informational article concerning this important ministry for the parish bulletin.

Father Proulx's Report - One million dollars has been collect toward the One Heart Campaign. We have collected \$195,000 for our ABA commitment.

At the completion of our summer Vacation Bible School, our VBS team, along with many of our young people, offered the same program to the farm worker's children at the San Jose Mission in Dover. The same materials that were used at Nativity were also used for the mission children. These classes were held outside and it was very hot. We want to thank all of those who gave of their time and talent to the children.

Janet Caraballo asked for a volunteer to attend the Novemberfest meetings and also one to chair the council booth at the yearly event. Members were reminded to wear their name tags at all church functions. Ideas to honor our priests in this Year of the Priest were discussed. A parishioner suggested that each family be asked for \$1.00 to send our pastor to the conference in Rome. Fr. Proulx appreciated the offer but said no to that idea.

The 7 Steps to Financial Freedom - Bryon Holz submitted a report on the progress of the program. The first session is at the half way mark and is a resounding success. There are 2 small groups of a dozen or so in each meeting on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am. There is already a waiting list of those interested in the next set of sessions. They are discussing the possibility of having an evening session. If this becomes a possibility more facilitators will be needed. Participants include young parents, middle aged empty nester and retirees, both single and married. They have received nothing but positive comments.

Career Workshop – Linda McCarroll - The next workshop is set up for Saturday, October 3rd from 9:30am – 3:30pm Cindy Woods, Adult Education & Formation coordinator from St. Stephens, along with Dr. Lisa Costas, who is a Licensed Psychologist and an Assoc. Professor at the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University will be two of the presenters. Dr. Costas is also involved in the Tampa Hispanic community. It was suggested that she put advertisements on the Diocesan web page and our school's web page. New speakers and materials will be added since the last workshop along with company representatives for the networking portion of the event.

Scrip- Sue Mokris - This fund-raising program has been used in the school for the past year and is going very well. Sue Mokris has been in contact for Tina Sullivan and they are discussing ways to implement it for the entire parish. It would be a way for the parish to obtain additional funds. More details to follow

Meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Attendance: Virginia Baum, Janet Caraballo, Gary Rabenold, Dee LoPresti, Linda McCarroll, Jim Ussery. Antonio Cartagena Sue Mokris, Arturo Rivera

Excused absences: Jo O'Brien, Kirven Speed