

# Parish Council Meeting Minutes - October 14, 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: [www.nativitycatholicchurch.org](http://www.nativitycatholicchurch.org).

Fr. Proulx opened meeting with a scripture reading and reflection. Janet Caraballo welcomed Dr. Mark Taylor, our new deacon. He will be an ad hoc council member.

**SCRIP** – As reported earlier, this is a program that earns money back for the Church when you make regular purchases. Participating retailers agree to sell their gift cards to Nativity Parish Scrip at a discount. Families buy the gift cards for full face value, redeem them for full face value, and our parish receives the discount as revenue. Sue Mokris and Rob Martin set up computers to educate the members on how easy it is to do an order. The procedure went very well. Presently Scrip is successfully utilized in our parish school. The goal is to make this program available to our parish community in the near future. The money received from this project will be put into the church's general fund. Since this program requires help in the distribution of the cards, the youth (teens) will assist in this area. A small amount of the proceeds will go to the youth programs to assist with retreats, trips to LaVictoria, etc. The Hispanic Youth Group will be contacted to see if they also would like to help. It was agreed that these would be the only groups who will share a small part of the proceeds from this parish wide program.

**Fr. Proulx's Report:** The church has been in contact with the mother house of Schoenstatt Sisters of La Victoria ((located in Wisconsin) concerning the donation (\$250,000.00) from the One Heart Campaign for the La Victoria Nutrition Center. We were informed that the Sisters were exploring the possibility of some funds being provided by the Dominican government to supplement this undertaking.

**Youth Center:** Contractors and surveyors are already at work. There will be a regular size gym, a youth area, a multi purpose room and a concession area. There will be a loft that will accommodate ping-pong and pool tables. It has been scaled down but will have the necessary space. There will be no bleachers or sound system. At present, we have collected \$2,048,000.00.

At this point, Fr. Shea stopped by and was recognized and thanked for his contribution to our parish. Father Proulx said he has been most helpful and is doing a great job. Fr. Shea shared he wants to work on building Small Christian Communities both English and Hispanic and work in the Migrant Camps. He stated that there are 5 additional migrant camps. He would like to have basic classes in English for them. He also expressed an interest in visiting with the parish Bible Study Classes that are already in place on Thursdays. Fr. Proulx congratulated Haydee Rivera and all those who contributed to the Multi-Cultural Festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There was great participation. It was truly inspiring, fun and the food was delicious and outstanding. There were 25 countries represented with many multicultural foods available. The Rosary was said in various languages. Haydee said everyone just came together and made this the spectacular event that it was. She appreciated the pictures from the celebration that were displayed on the bulletin cover. Parishioners are already planning and looking forward to next year's celebration.

Fr. Proulx also ask that Virginia Baum to extend his most grateful appreciation to the Nativity Women's Guild for their efforts to make this years annual Guild-fest such a roaring success. A lady from the Indian Community performed a dance; also a group of Spanish Dancers, a Fashion Show, great food and their current circles were showcased. This was a spectacular afternoon of entertainment and fellowship.

Fr. Proulx acknowledged Deacon Mark Taylor on his ordination along with 18 others in our diocese. It was a great event and we are so thankful to have so many men ordained in the St. Petersburg diocese.

**Golden Year Celebration in 2010:** Fr. Proulx asked for suggestions as to how we should go about planning this celebration. It was decided that he would select a committee to work on this special event that will take place throughout 2010.

Dee LoPresti reported that all the Novemberfest committees were up and running. The medical committee was still in need of qualified people. Fr. Proulx asked that Art Barlaan be contacted to see if he could get some volunteers.

Dee reported that Clauden Boyd, who is working with the Ministry of Peace, will be composing and sending a letter after the holidays to all of the Nativity organizations asking if they would be interested in receiving notification of when there is a death of a parishioner or a member of their family. The organizations could then forward it to all their members. This will be an excellent way for all our parishioners to keep connected and support those in our parish community who have experienced a loss.

Dee also reported that she had been approached by one of the students attending the English class offered by the parish. They had expressed how happy they were with what they were learning in class and how much they appreciated their teacher. Father expressed how pleased he was that the class involved teaching life skills such as completing checks and filing out forms. We want to encourage more of our English language learners to attend these classes.

**Third Career Workshop:** Linda McCarroll - Linda stated that the workshop was a great success. There were 48 people who attended the workshop. Some of the comments were: Great Job, Beyond Expectation, Very Professional, very nice of the church to do this, not only for our parishioners but for the community as a whole. The curriculum consisted of Stress Management conducted by Dr. Lisa Costas, a Licensed Psychologist and a parishioner. Cindy Wood presented God's Plan for You and Toastmasters. Cindy is a parishioner from St. Stephens. Resumes were conducted by Debbi O'Reilly and the interviewing section was handled by John Bornman and ended with Networking by Pat Dunagan. 12 Networking Participants were also available for the attendees to talk with. Some suggestions for additional programs were a Living Will Seminar and Overeaters Program. The next planned workshop will take place in 2010.

**Janet Caraballo read the following report that had been submitted by Jeff Joaquin and Fr. Clement: That Man Is You** - "The TMIY Program has garnered the interest of nearly 240 men who have signed up from Nativity to participate in this program which is held Thursday mornings at 5:30am in the morning. From the biographies of our signups, we have men who are recent members of the Parish

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*to men who have been members of the Parish for over 30 years, we have members who are not yet married to those that have been married for over 50 years, we have men who have not been blessed as of yet to have children to a man who has raised 14 children in the Catholic Faith, we have around 20 men who participate in the small groups discussions in their native Spanish tongue, we even have several members who are not Catholic but are using this program in their discernment process of converting to Catholicism. In the end, we have over 160 men each week who wake up at 5:00am in the morning to improve their relationship with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even though the program has for all intents and purposes been a tremendous success in the eyes of the Clergy and Laity at Nativity, there are still a large number of men who we have not been able to reach who attend weekly service at Nativity. The litmus test for the TMIY program is very simple in nature – if you are a man of 18 years or older, a sinner, and in need of improvement in your relationship with Jesus, your spouse, your children, your co-workers or other individuals in your life, then this program will benefit you on your spiritual journey. We actually have between 5 and 10 new men sign up each week for the program and we welcome such. The program is setup to allow an individual to join the program at any time during the 26-week period and they can still retain benefit accordingly.*

*We sincerely thank Father Proulx for the doors that he has opened at the Parish to allow the program to grow into what it has become in such a short period of time and we continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide the program into the future. Thank you very much for the support of the Pastoral Council, God bless, keep the Faith and Trust in God” Jeff Joaquin*  
**Report received from Fr. Clement concerning the Year for Priests was summarized.** *The YFP Committee members have been selected and will be meeting for the first time this month.*

**A Novemberfest schedule** was passed out for members to sign up for hours to work at the Parish Information Booth. Janet said that she had e-mailed the Eucharistic Ministers to assist in manning the booth and would bring the schedule to the Eucharistic Minister’s dinner on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Members were also reminded of our field trip to the Food Pantry Warehouse on October 17<sup>th</sup> and the annual retreat at Bethany Center on October 31<sup>st</sup>.*

*Meeting was adjourned with a prayer.*

*Attendance Virginia Baum, Janet Caraballo, Dee LoPresti, Linda McCarroll, Sue Mokris, Gary Rabenold, Arturo Rivera, Kirven Speed.*  
*Excused absences: Art Barlaan, Antonio Cartagena, Jo O’Brien, and Jim Ussery*