

St Catherine Labouré Pastoral Council Meeting

September 10, 2018

Call to Order – President Len Rechichar at 6 pm

Present – Joyce Ford, JoAnn French, Katie Napp, Al Parnell, Len Rechichar, and Father Fred.

Absent – Sean Holmes, Michael Orley, John Reed (all excused)

Guests – Robin Adams

Recorder: Tammy Holmes

Opening prayer – Al Parnell

Reading of Parish Mission Statement:

Mission Statement: We, the community of St. Catherine Labouré, empowered by the Holy Spirit, will strive to serve the Gospel message in reaching out as the Body of Christ to serve our brothers and sisters.

Approval of minutes –

Al made a motion to approve the minutes from July 09, 2018. JoAnn seconded the motion. Approved with all in favor.

Call to the public:

Robin Adams – reaching out to brothers and sisters – should include use of telephone. Robin feels that she has not been reached out to by parish as a newer member because no one calls her to tell her what is going on at the church. She feels that she has no communication with other members of the parish. She didn't get a bulletin one time and there were no copies left when she came to the office to see if there were any left.

Al – replied that we do understand your concerns. We do use bulletin boards, bulletins, newsletters, announcements, our website and our highway sign to keep this information available.

Joyce – asked if Robin wanted to have people to call, or if she meant she wanted someone to call her when things were happening? The newsletter lists everything for the month and is mailed to all of our registered members.

Father – asked Robin what she wanted to see done – what were her suggestions?

Robin – replied that she is not used to calling people for help. If you are assigned to call someone, you need to call them.

Tammy – asked what group would have assigned someone to contact another person? She is not aware of any group that assigns people to contact others regarding events at the church.

JoAnn – asked if Robin was referring to a new parishioner, someone who just moved to the parish, or someone who just became a Catholic.

Robin - replied that she was uncertain but the person she was talking with may have been in the RCIA program and was never contacted by their sponsor.

JoAnn – replied that we don't as Catholics contact others – we are respectful of the other person's needs. Each person is in a different place spiritually, and we

don't assume to push our personal devotions on others. It would also be good for Robin to ask people you are familiar with about things you may be interested in.

Len – asked if Robin receives the monthly newsletter. **Robin** replied that she does, but she doesn't always have time to read it.

JoAnn - mentioned that the announcements before Mass are always a good place to hear about what is going on. **Robin** replied that she doesn't tend to get to Mass in time to hear them.

Father – suggested it might be good idea to bring back new parishioner packet. It is the person's responsibility to do with the information as they wish. He suggested we give them a Newsletter, bulletin, and a list of ministries. **Tammy** replied that when someone comes in to register, we do give them a copy of the current newsletter. When someone registers without coming in, we send them a letter of welcome and a list of ministries, along with basic information about the parish.

AI – will draft a new member packet and will bring it to the next meeting.

Public concerns voiced to Council members:

JoAnn – reported that a choir member would like to see us have monthly envelopes in different colors for building and maintenance fund (this was at her mother's parish) that allow for a person to indicate if they want the money to go to a Building fund, or a Maintenance fund. Also, she would like to see us have electric candles available that would allow someone to pay \$200 to stay lit for two people for one year.

Fr. Fred – replied that our envelopes come from a company, and we don't have many options from which to choose. Our Building fund envelope is already a different color from the plate envelopes. He would prefer that as few "choices" be made on envelopes as this can be very confusing for the teams processing the envelopes each week.

Joyce – has received some complaints about the new red/green light for confession. People are sitting on both sides of the door, which is confusing as to "whose turn it is". They don't like where the light is located – they say it is too difficult to see. Could we put up a sign to help people figure out how it works?

Father Fred – replied that it's a new process. Eventually things will work out.

One suggestion was to have people turn the chairs around the other way to face the light. If people wish to turn the chairs around, they may do so, as long as the aisle way is kept clear in case of an emergency.

Pastor's Report:

Capital Campaign – Father reported that we are progressing as the Diocese has directed and that so far, as they hoped, we are on track. Father has contacted all of the people he was assigned to contact. 30+ people have signed up for the luncheon on September 17. The Campaign Cabinet is in place. In October, there will be an in pew presentation when more information will be available to the parishioners. Our Campaign will conclude in November. Father feels the North Deanery will not be as big of a contributor as the Diocese has hoped. Many parishes are currently undergoing construction projects, and many are in debt due to previous projects. Whatever we get here at the parish will be the best we can do as we are going to make our best effort to do as the Diocese has asked.

Audit – Father reported we did well with only some minor changes indicated. These changes mean more forms, signatures, and time on behalf of staff, but did not find major issues. They want us to move to an accrual system, versus our cash flow system. Most other parishes are working on the cash flow system. At this time, we will continue as we are currently doing, until such time as we receive directions to do otherwise.

Drainage issues – Father reported that we have been working on this and have a few more issues to correct. This will be discussed at the next Finance Council meeting.

Despite all of the news – we have not seen a significant drop in the collection or attendance.

Funeral ministry – Father indicated that we have always had a “donation basis” for the priest and the church. This will not change. However, the policy regarding use of the hall for a luncheon will change. Lunches have been provided for free as a ministry. This is being abused. For example, one funeral for a parishioner asked for food for 125 and food to go home. The children weren’t being monitored, one statue was broken, and they blamed the church because it “wasn’t secured.” He is proposing that a charge for use of the hall, including mandatory insurance be set up for those who are not members of the parish, and they must provide their own caterer. For parishioners, lunch will have a cost if you need food for more than 75 people, and none will be provided to go home, other than “leftovers.”

Al made a motion to have Father work with the Finance Committee to establish a Funeral Ministry policy. Len seconded the motion. Approved with all in favor.

Fr. Fred – reported that he had received a concern from the suggestion box about not receiving Precious Blood at all Masses. The Bishop requested that the Precious Blood be reserved for special feasts and circumstances due to abuses he was seeing in the Diocese. This also shows better solidarity with the poorer countries who cannot afford the wine for every communicant for every Mass.

Committee Reports –

Katie – reported that the Ladies are looking to participate in the Town Hometown Christmas again this year. They would like to sell “Keep Christ in Christmas” magnets. They will be doing Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas baskets again this year. The Christmas Bazaar is ramping up, it will be the first weekend in November. There is a Bunco/Potluck on Sept 24 for all ladies of the parish.

Len – reported that the Knights will be providing Father Fred with gift cards to use for those in need for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The Knights BBQ will be on October 6th and the profits will be split between SVdP and FOCUS Campus Ministries.

JoAnn – reported that the Choir has concert coming up September 30 to benefit the Chino Valley Food Bank. She also reported that the Intentional Disciples team took August off, and they are currently working on introducing the ALPHA program at Embry Riddle.

OLD BUSINESS –

- **Review of Parish Pastoral Plan**

- **Reach out to former Catholics** – Catholics Welcomed Home, RCIA, Intentional Disciples
- **Establish multi-generational programs** – Holy Family Ministry, Young Adult Group
- **Increase ministry volunteers** – As new members join parish, we are getting an occasional volunteer.
- **Foster Spiritual Growth** – Intentional Disciples program. Bible Studies, Adult Formation Classes, Young Adult Group.

- **Standing Agenda Items from previous meeting**

- **Territorial Days** – Len reported that we did not participate this year. No one could cover it that day.
- **Halloween** – as Michael Orley was ill and not at the meeting to report his findings, Len will contact him and send out an e-mail to the Council. Will need to decide if go to Town or do our own.

- **Project Update**

- Repairs to church ceiling have been completed. the roof leak has been repaired.
- A leak in the Rectory roof has also been repaired.
- Parking lot drainage issues have mostly been completed. Discussion regarding further repair will be done at Thursday's Finance Council meeting.

- **Parish Newsletter Assignment**

- October due September 15 – Michael Orley

New Business

- **Upcoming Events (September 11 to September 30)**

- Just Coffee Sept 15/16 after Saturday night and Sunday morning Masses
- Fiestas Patrias Sept 16 @ 12:30 pm
- Young Adult group at Embury Riddle @ 6 pm then Mass at 7:30
- Together Campaign Luncheon Sept 17 @ Noon
- Holy Family Ministry Bake Sale Sept 23 after morning Masses
- Ladies Potluck/Bunco September 24
- Father on vacation Sept 24-28
- Concert to benefit Chino Valley Food Bank Sept 30 @ 3 pm
- Young Adult group meets at St. Catherine Sept 30 @ 5:30 pm

- **Parish Newsletter Assignment**

- November due October 15 - Joyce
- December due November 15 – Al

- **Review of Pastoral Council Constitution**

- **on Page 3, it should read “9 selected members” instead of “7”**

- on Page 5, it should be updated to read “the second Monday” instead of “the second Sunday.”
 - As both items were approved and voted upon in previous meetings, the changes will be made without further ratification.

Standing Agenda Items –

- **Pastoral Council Retreat –**
 - The date has been set for January 12 beginning at 8:30 am with Mass. This will replace the January 14th regular meeting. The group will discuss and evaluate the effectiveness of the Pastoral plan based on the Pastoral Council Constitution. The meeting is planned to adjourn at noon.
- **Christmas –** no discussion other than the things mentioned in the reports from the groups.

Member Concerns –

Fr. Fred – suggests an annual report to the Dean from the Pastoral Council. This is already a requirement for the Finance Council. It is not required from the Pastoral Council but may be a very good way to help us determine our effectiveness.

JoAnn – suggested that instead of asking people to turn off their phone at the beginning of the announcements, we ask them to turn them on so that they can put important information into their calendars. Then at the end, announce that people should turn off their phones.

Al – asked how we are doing in regard to Safe Environment Training. Tammy replied that we still have 90 volunteer who need to take a Renewal class. We have three people waiting to take a Foundation class. The most important things to get completed now are the Reference checks and Interviews for those already in the system who are missing these components. We are very close to having this done but need to get to 100%.

Katie – asked if people who are not Catholic can be invited to attend meetings such as the Ladies group. Tammy replied that they are always welcome to attend a meeting or an event. However, if they wish to volunteer, Catholic or not, they must complete the Safe Environment Training. Father stressed, they are always welcome to attend and enjoy any event – they just cannot volunteer.

Father – asked that we all keep informed about Bishops meetings coming up this fall. Changes may be coming that we will need to address.

Agenda items for next meeting on September 10, 2018

- Al to draft new parishioner packet for review.
- please submit all other items for the agenda to the office no later than two weeks before the meeting.

Al made a motion to close the meeting after prayer and mission statement at 7:33 pm. JoAnn seconded the motion. Approved with all in favor.

Closing prayer – Father Fred

Mission statement read by all.

Next meeting November 12, 2018