

**St. Peter Church
Pastoral Council Meeting
June 16, 2015
Minutes of the Meeting**

Present:

Rev. Jerome Foley, Pastor
Sr. Hilda Sandoval, M.F.P.
Deidre Watson, President
Steven Arms
Kathleen Bissell
Cristina Caro
Maureen Geneste

Absent:

Art Angst, Pastoral Associate (ex officio)
Regina Cuevas

Opening Prayer

Sr. Hilda led the Council in a Prayer to Our Lady

Welcome / Introductions

The Council welcomed Cristina Caro as a member of the Pastoral Council. Brief introductions of the members occurred and Cristina shared her history with St. Peter Church and thanked the Council for its support and warm welcome.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes of the May 12, 2015, meeting, which were approved.

Old Business

Fr. Bill O'Connell's Silver Anniversary Celebration

Deidre and others provided a recap of the Silver Anniversary Celebration for Fr. Bill O'Connell. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful tribute to a special member of the St. Peter Church community. Fr. Foley shared a lovely letter from a former parishioner who movingly expressed how much Fr. Bill's presence in her life meant to her. Maureen suggested that

photos taken at the event might be posted on the Parish website. Kathleen offered to contact Kate Chinca to track down photos and to engage Dale Smith to determine if posting the photos could be done.

Bible Bingo

Kathleen brought the Council up to date on discussions regarding the Bible Bingo Entertainment Group's need for specific audio support. A decision to make the final decision was deferred. The Council also discussed a future need for replacements to the audio equipment in the gym, which Fr. Foley plans to discuss with the Finance Committee meeting in August. Kathleen will seek technical assistance in that project.

Non-Profit Organization: Collaboration

Deidre reported that her efforts to reach out to the Pacifica Resource Center to determine if collaborative fundraising/support activities would be of interest. Due to lack of response from the Resource Center, Deidre, instead, suggested that the Parish consider alternative collaborations. The Council supported Deidre's recommendations to pursue organizations that support young people who reach the maximum age in the Foster Care System and provide foundational support. In addition, she suggested that support of women victimized by domestic violence should be considered. The Council members agreed and Fr. Foley asked Deidre to contact Catholic Charities. It was suggested that this activity would be a good activity during the 2016 Lenten Season.

New Business

Kateri Tekakwitha Fund Award

Kathleen reported on the recent Annual Pasta Party at St. Peter Church in support of the Kateri Tekakwitha Fund. For over 20 years, this organization has done tremendous work in support of the women of Guatemala and annually recognizes a person or group that has done an outstanding job in supporting the fund. This year's "Most Valuable Angel" recognition went to the St. Peter Church community that has supported this organization through fundraising activities, purchasing fair trade items and volunteer efforts. Fr. Foley accepted the "Most Valuable Angel" banner at the Pasta Party and Kathleen presented Deidre with the award certificate at the Council meeting.

Welcoming Ideas

Steven shared his thoughts on how we can energize and reach out to visitors, improve how we welcome visitors to St. Peter Church, encourage greater registration among regular attendees and greater involvement in the Parish. He provided a book entitled “Rediscovering Catholicism” and internet accessible information designed to introduce our faith and our church that could be used as a “Welcome Package”. The Council enthusiastically accepted his ideas. Council members agreed to read the book, review the materials and be prepared to discuss comments, editions and next steps to promoting the “Welcome Package” at the next Council meeting.

Father’s Day Social

Sr. Hilda shared the ideas she’s planning to implement during the weekend of June 20 and 21 in celebration of Father’s Day. She showed members the individual gifts for the fathers and discussed the logistics for signing up volunteers to help at each Mass, including students in the Confirmation Program.

Name Tag Sunday

Kathleen reported that the recent Name Tag Sunday continues to be very popular with parishioners and many would welcome more frequent events. Fr. Foley suggested we consider keeping reusable, clip-on nametags in the narthex for people to use every weekend. Maureen added that the Wine & Cheese event at the 4:30 Mass was a big success as was the Coffee & Donuts at the Sunday Masses. It was agreed that a more formalized process, perhaps once per month, with an outreach to volunteers should be considered.

Other

Young Adult Bible Study Group

Steven shared his experience in leading a Young Adult Group at St. Gregory parish and recommended that the Council consider creating a similar process at St. Peter Church. St. Hilda agreed to contact the archdiocese resource on this topic, Angela Pollack, to determine if their program would provide guidelines and ideas to help implement this idea. Fr. Foley suggested that it might be appropriate to do this during Advent and asked the Council to consider a balanced approach to event planning between the Advent and Lenten seasons.

Deidre’s Thoughts

As Deidre’s 3-year term on the council is ending she wanted to thank the Council for its support. She also reflected on the many significant fundraising events and other activities

sponsored by the Council that have helped St. Peter Church and the broader community. Special events including Murder at the Louvre, Late Night Catechism, St. Peter 25th Anniversary of the new church building, the Remembrance Mass in November, the Health Fair, e-Waste recycling, and the upcoming blessing of the animals with special four-footed guests from the Peninsula Humane Society are only a few of the many past and future events and activities..

Fr. Foley thanked Deidre and Maureen, whose official term on the Council is expiring as well, for their service. He also suggested that due to their long term experience on the Council and in the parish, they would be welcome to continue to serve as Council members. All members were reminded to reach out to those parishioners who may be willing to serve.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be held on September 8, 2015.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Foley led the Council in a closing prayer with a reflection on St. Paul's letter to the Romans.

Respectfully submitted: Kathleen Bissell, June 17, 2015.