

**St. Peter Church
Pastoral Council Meeting
November 10, 2015
Minutes of the Meeting**

Present:

Rev. Jerome Foley, Pastor
Sr. Hilda Sandoval, M.F.P.
Art Angst, Pastoral Associate
Deidre Watson, President
Kathleen Bissell

Absent:

Steven Arms
Cristina Caro
Maureen Geneste
Regina Cuevas

Opening Prayer

St. Hilda led the Council in a Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Approval of the Minutes

Since several Council members were absent, approval of the October minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Reports

All Souls' Day: Deidre reported that the Mass held for All Souls' went very well and was a wonderful celebration. She expressed great appreciation for the assistance provided by the kids. She also identified several things where improvements could be made for the 2016 event including the number of candles needed, candle size and the addition of names of those remembered on the candles. There was limited attendance this year, but several new attendees. A general announcement and invitation to light a candle for those who have lost someone during the year should be made to encourage more attendees next year.

Parish Survey: Fr. Foley provided a status of the survey which is scheduled for distribution the weekend of November 14. 200 copies will be distributed at all Masses.

Forgive Us Our Debt Update: This item was deferred to the January meeting.

Anniversary Party: The Council considered several optional dates for holding an anniversary party and it was determined that it should occur in January.

Donuts: The Council considered additional logistics for holding more frequent coffee and donuts gatherings after Mass with donuts and coffee (Sunday) or wine and snacks (Saturday). The Council also consider the possibility of establishing a formalized approach for securing volunteers to help set up/clean up.

New Business

Church Committee Party: It was agreed that a Committee Christmas Party will be held at the rectory on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 5:30pm. It will be pot luck and a voluntary White Elephant gift exchange will be included. Art will invite the Finance Committee members and Deidre will invite the Pastoral Council to volunteer to bring something to share.

Additional Business

Books: Kathleen asked the Council to consider a call for new/used books for a parish lending library or, in the alternative, a call to support the St. Vincent de Paul request for books which is underway. Fr. Foley supported the alternative approach.

Mass Prayer Books: It was suggested that there are some hearing and/or visually impaired parishioners that have requested a daily prayer book, in large font. The Council discussed the various options and approaches to making these booklets available and the potential cost involved. St. Hilda will look into the options available.

Stewardship Idea: Deidre brought up a potential stewardship idea that would engage the young people in support for the local women's health center. She encouraged others to think about ways to encourage participation in various ministries. Fr. Suggested that the confirmation classes' Respect for Life activities might also be considered a part of this.

Gift Cards: The council considered a number of ways to improve the promotion of the gift cards and several ideas were discussed to encourage a greater participation before Christmas. Suggestions included: A section in the Bulletin which explains what's available and how St. Peter Church benefits from the revenue generated by these cards. It was also suggested that a link to the Evergive, St. Peter Church, site might include a mention of the gift cards. In addition, it was suggested that a PayPal link be included on the parish website and Dale Smith should be contacted.

Next Meeting

Since the second Sunday of December will fall on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Council agreed to hold its next meeting on January 12, 2016.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Foley led the Council in a closing prayer.