

All Saints Pastoral Council

Minutes – April 22nd, 2015 Meeting

Present: John Stopher, Jim Sherwood, Shiela Liegel, Sue Rathbun, Betty Drotar, Eric Greenfield, Betty Rankin, Diane Rizzo, Kathy Gosh, Jack Ziegler, Fr. Fred.

Absent/Excused: Christiane Page, Joe Ridgway, Kate Reid, Agatha Devore, Alex Riedinger

Guests: Kip Hargrave, Meg Ksander

Jack welcomed Council members and guests and called the Council to order at 7:05 p.m. Fr. Fred led the members in an opening prayer.

- A. Villanueva Project Proposal:** Kip Hargrave and Meg Ksander from the joint St. Lucy/All Saints Villanueva Project Steering Committee presented a proposal regarding a change in the way funds for the project are accounted for.

Kip began by providing the Council with an overview of the history of the project from its beginnings under the leadership of Frank Woolever and the former St. Andrew's Parish community to the present. Currently, a steering committee comprised of three members from each parish oversees the project. Kip also outlined what has been the approach both for fundraising and the accounting of program funds.

Currently, St. Lucy's and All Saints parishes have committed to a total funding of \$12,000 per year. Of that amount, \$9,000 is sent to the Directiva for on site project expenses and \$3,000 is retained here for emergencies and to fund special needs.. Currently, the project has approximately \$32,000 in a bank account which reflects a fund balance as well as some major gifts.

Kip noted that funds were used recently to purchase an I Pad and Ultra Sound equipment as well as to pay for Red Cross training of project volunteers and repairs to program facilities.

One of the major components of the program is the travel of persons from the sponsoring parishes to Villanueva in order to witness first hand the work being done among the people. In addition, these visits are recognized by both persons in Villanueva and here as key to maintaining a personal relationship with and advocacy for the project.

Consequently, until now, there were two aspects of program's fundraising: one to support the actual ministry in Nicaragua and a second to raise funds to reimburse some of the travel expenses of parishioners who travel to Villanueva in the name of the sponsoring parishes. In addition to separate fundraising, separate line items for bookkeeping purposes were retained for respective expenses.

Kip explained that those who administer the fundraising and financial management of the program have found that maintaining this distinction makes it difficult to explain the overall program mission to people at fund raising events. It has necessitated having to clarify if donations are going to be spent on the work of the project or travel.

Therefore, the Steering Committee is proposing that both line items be combined into one mission account. Both aspects of the program will continue to be explained and promoted and respective funding will continue to be noted, however fundraising will be conducted in a more integrated fashion. The Steering Committee will allocate funds to whichever aspect of the program as it sees fit. Making this move will further the understanding that the mission visits are part of the overall outreach to the Villanueva community and those traveling are "Travel Delegates" from the sponsoring parishes.

In addition, the Steering Committee is proposing that the total committed funding be raised to \$15k. While the current \$12k total funding from the two parishes would continue, additional funding sources would include mission to talks to parishes identified by the Diocese and fund raising projects jointly sponsored by St. Lucy's and All Saints.

After some discussion with both Kip and Meg, the Council unanimously agreed to the proposal of combining both program and travel expenses into one mission account. The Council encouraged the Steering Committee to take advantage of promoting the program as "mission appeals" in the assigned parishes. It is hoped that this endeavor will raise the additional funds required to raise overall funding to the requested \$15k level. The Council will get back to the Steering Committee regarding its request for additional jointly sponsored fund raisers.

- B. Update on the Synod on the Family Listening Project:** Jack, John Stopher and Meg Ksander commented on the written responses to the recent survey on topics being addressed at the upcoming Synod on the Family. The responses were primarily from three groups of respondents: a) separated, divorced and remarried Catholics; b) LGBT persons; and c) persons who have struggled with the Church's teaching on birth control and other reproductive issues.

The volume, content and tenor of the responses were noted, in particular the pain and struggle of so many people attempting to make decisions in their own lives given their personal and/or family circumstances and the Church's teaching and pastoral practice.

Meg explained that the next step in the process was to work with Rita Reicher at KS & R who will apply some research software to our survey responses in order to analyze and identify basic themes. This analysis will enable us to write a report that will be available online and will also be sent to appropriate Synod related bishops and Vatican officials in preparation for the Synod this Fall.

In addition, this information will be invaluable to the Parish as we design both programmatic and pastoral ways that we can reach out to persons who are “on the periphery” similar to those who responded to the survey.

- C. **BHC Renovation Project Update:** John Stopher reported that by and large the renovations to the first floor, mezzanine offices and lower level space of the Bishop Harrison Center are now complete.

Later in the week, he and Sr. Kathy will be developing an inventory of items currently being stored in the BHC as well as other buildings on campus with a recommendation of which items should be retained, made available for sale, or thrown out. This will enable us to free up space in our facilities that we can begin to make available to agencies and appropriate organizations who might be interested in locating their activities out of the BHC.

With regard to the elevator project, John reported that the initial design plans are just about ready to be submitted to the City Zoning Board. It is expected that the complete set of specs will be completed by May 7th which can be sent out for bids.

John also reported on the drainage issues we have experienced with the BHC. It is planned that within a couple of weeks, we will hire a firm to scope the perimeter drainage system to determine whether there are any blockages which, if located, will require excavation in order to perform the necessary repairs. It was noted that the excavations required for building the elevator housing may correct the water problem we continue to have in the North stairwell.

- D. **Joint Pastoral Council/Finance Committee report:** Jack reviewed with Council members the minutes of the Joint Pastoral Council/Finance Committee meeting held on April 13th. In addition to Jack, Jim Sherwood and John Stopher represent the Council on this Committee.

Among the issues noted were: a) Buildings and Grounds Committee will be identifying our storage needs going forward so that we can have a clearer picture of space available for rental to agencies and other community organizations; b) the issue of cash flow going forward as we begin to implement the elevator project; c) a review of renovation costs, capital drive update and some general data on facilities costs and rental revenue; d) some process recommendations for the development of the parish operating budget for the next fiscal year; e) the continued operating deficit and recommendations regarding cutting program costs and increasing ordinary revenue.

With regard to this last issue, it was recognized by the Council that we have already implemented an increased offertory program as well as the capital drive. The community responded most generously to each of these initiatives. Therefore, we need to look to other means for increasing ordinary income.

In addition to increasing rental income, the Council began discussion on the possibility of sponsoring some fund raising events. It was noted, that such initiatives are usually more successful when they are tied to ministry projects, designed with community input and are community building in nature. It was noted that, in so many ways, All Saints is not your typical parish; therefore we need to look to possible programs that are consistent with who we are. Council members were asked to give more thought to this issue which we will discuss at our next meeting. In addition, the Council will identify ways to obtain community input regarding this matter.

Jack announced that the next meeting of the Council will be Wednesday, May 20th.

Fr. Fred concluded the meeting with a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Ziegler