



St Joseph on the Rio Grande Pastoral Council Minutes

Monday, November 20, 2017

The meeting of the Pastoral Council was held in the SJRG Parish Office conference room and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Susan Tomita, Pastoral Council Chair.

Pastoral Council Members

(P = Present; E = Excused; U = Unexcused)

 P Monsignor Luna

2018

2019

2020

 P Gladys Delgado

Vacant

 P Leroy Chavez

 E Cathy Nieto-Martinez

 P Kathy Malechuk

 P Diana Clokey

 E Ezequiel Ortiz

 P Patrick Newfield

 P Vincent Nulk

Vacant

 P Susan Tomita

 P Peter Schwartz

Guests

Dawn Wentz for the parish.

Jean Szymanski for the Ministry Committee.

Prayer and Mission Statement:

Gladys Delgado led the opening prayer and the Parish Mission Statement was recited.

Agenda and Minutes:

Cathy Nieto-Martinez

moved to approve the agenda, Vince Nulk seconded, and the agenda was approved unanimously. Kathy Malechuk moved to approve the minutes, Leroy Chavez seconded and after some corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Monsignor Luna's Comments:

- Monsignor reported that he was nearly finished signing the 2017 Parishioner Contributions letters.
- Monsignor remarked that more work needs to be done regarding parishioner stewardship, both in participation and generativity, i.e., the habit of giving and participating. The hope is that, in time, parishioners will be more

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forthcoming.

- Monsignor congratulated Gladys Delgado and Jean Szymanski for their leadership and the entire Ministry Committee for the success of the Ministry Meeting on Jan 13., and added that it might be a good idea to invite the Deacons for next year's meeting.

Comments and Concerns from Parishioners:

- Dawn Wenzl expressed a number of concerns/issues:
 1. That people register for the parish just to receive the sacraments because after reception many new parishioners, based on Mass attendance and envelopes, never return. Often young adults/couples "parish hop." Since Oct., out of 87 new parishioners, only 7 signed up for any ministries.
 2. That many seeking affidavits for sacramental sponsorship do not qualify, based on attendance. On a related note, Monsignor added that parishioners who didn't qualify for the sacraments would have the sacrament delayed until the individual met Church requirements.
 3. That registered parishioners who were inactive were dropped from the Parish Registry. N.B. Concerning points 1 to 3, How does the Parish get people to connect or commit to it? Points 4, 5 and 6 address the above somewhat.
 4. The Information/Welcoming Desk should be staffed before and after Sunday Masses, especially the 8 and 12 Masses. On the Sundays of the PC Update to the parishioners, PC presenters would staff the desk. For other Sundays, a schedule will need to be made.
 5. Follow-up calls to new parishioners may help them feel more included.
 6. The PC invited Dawn to attend PC meetings on an "as needed" basis to give information on Parish issues.
- Jean Szymanski presented the consolidated responses of the participants' comments/evaluation of the Jan. 13 Ministries Meeting.
 1. The overwhelming response was that the ministries need more help, more participants, and that the need is so great that we shouldn't wait for the completion of the Nazareth Center but forge ahead now.
 2. The discussion focused on presenting information on one ministry per Sat./Sun. Make an announcement about the ministry at Mass (before/after)—have it appear on the jumbo tron, and follow-up with more information at the Info Desk, the web site, and the bulletin. Perhaps a member of the respective ministry can make the presentation or staff the Info. Desk?
 3. Someone will call a parishioner who was concerned about the use of space/availability of Church rooms.
 4. Seeing that there is more work to be done, the Ministry Committee will continue to meet and will tentatively

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meet on 1/25.

Las Posadas Committee:

- Susan Tomita requested PC volunteers for the December 17 event as the PC has been asked to host a door. A number of PC members responded.

Parish Retreat Report:

- Pat Newfield reported that the PRC had met 6 times before the retreat.
- 70 people attended—84 tickets were sold at Mass and 10 in the Office.
- Msgr. Luna led with a prayer and the Franciscan Friars conducted the retreat.
- Confessions were available through most of the day.
- \$485 was spent, but this was considerably underbudget.
- Next year's retreat, will be conducted by David Hoover and Sharon Halsey-Hoover of Inscape Ministries, and will be held on Oct. 13, 2018.

Ministry Retreat Report:

- Jean Szymanski presented the drafts of an invitation letter and agenda for the Jan. 13, 2018 Ministries Retreat.
- The letter will be sent from the Parish office on Dec. 12 with email or phone follow-ups if necessary.
- Monsignor will personally sign the letters.
- Dawn Wenzl will discuss the Parish Calendar and Danita Burns, the Parish Web-site.
- Gladys Delgado will contact Fr. Bill to confirm his participation.
- Monsignor suggested that Fr. Bill's address be the Keynote presentation of the Retreat and come right after the sign-in/registration, that he be given more time to speak, and that we could begin a half hour sooner.
- Also, it was re-affirmed that one of the Retreat's objectives is to have the various ministries interact and network with one another.

Lenten Retreat Report:

- Susan Tomita reported that the Lenten Mission Committee has met once and has contacted Fr. Eric Tellez of St. Patrick's Parish in Scottsdale, Arizona, who has agreed to conduct the mission. Fr. Tellez informed her that he expected no remuneration for his services and that he will pay for his own transportation and lodging. It is his gift to the parish. We are grateful for his generosity.

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Adjournment:

- Patrick Newfield moved to adjourn, Diana Clokey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Closing Prayer:

- Monsignor Luna led the Pastoral Council members in the closing prayer.

Item Description	Responsible Person	Due Date
Continue planning for Parish Retreat, Ministry Leaders Meeting, Winter Retreat, and Lenten Mission	Respective Committees	Ongoing

Recorded by: Peter Schwartz

These minutes were reviewed, corrected and unanimously approved on

Approval was moved by _____ and _____ seconded.

Verified by Susan Tomita, Chair