

Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council - December 8, 2019

Members present: Alejandrina Amado, Rob Cassleman, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Deacon Jim Evermann, Aurora Horstkamp, Jim Lincoln, Kevin Owens, Eric Patera (Acting Chair), and Mary Schweitzer. Char Snekvik (Chair) by speaker phone from Seattle.

Also present: **Bill Engels**, Community Outreach Commission Chair, and **Mary Sutherland**, Parish Secretary. The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer.

Fr. Steve reported that a homeless man, Alex, was sleeping in the church on and off for a few weeks. He did no damage, but did cause concern. Our night janitor told him to leave at one point when he found him sleeping in the church. Alex reportedly left town for Boston. Parishioners tried to help him, and thought about how we could set up a shelter in the church. That takes a lot of planning. The city needs a shelter. Housing is better, but there is nothing here.

Community Outreach Commission Report: (see attached or inserted pages for the full report)

Bill Engels noted that the Marketing Committee was left out of the report. They are working on our social media and press releases. The report includes the Knights, Caritas Ministry, PREPARES, and the Social Justice Ministry.

Bill and the council members discussed the section of the Social Justice Ministry report regarding reusable light-weight dinnerware. The Ministry would like to purchase a set of high quality melamine plates and a set of SAN drinking glasses to use off-site, such as for the auction, youth picnics, parking lot BBQ, etc.

He addressed three main concerns the council had when he brought up the proposal several months ago:

1. *It is more practical to rent plates than transport them.* These plates and glasses will be very light-weight, 7 to 9 ounces versus 26 ounces for the current plates. When we rent we still have to clean the dishes, and it costs about \$300.
2. *There is no plastic waste when we rent plates.* This melamine will last for years; it will not shatter, chip, stain, or scratch. It is restaurant quality. The cups will not break or turn opaque. It will not be thrown out.
3. *There is no place to store them.* They won't take up much room, and can be stored in the parish house basement.

The council discussed the pros and cons of purchasing melamine plates now versus replacing the current dishes with something lighter weight. The Social Justice Ministry determined that melamine dishes would not be nice enough to use for every function at the church. If all the dishes were replaced, we would need something like Corelle, which is better looking and even more durable than the new melamine, and can be microwaved.

However, replacing all the dishes with Corelle would cost around \$3,000. The melamine plates would run around \$700 for 150, depending on the style. The drinking glasses would be about \$300 for the same number. The point of getting the melamine plates and plastic cups now is to avoid the use of disposable plates and cups, and stop paying rental fees.

After some discussion a majority of the council agreed to accept the proposal. Social Justice will try to purchase plates made in the U.S. And, they will make a sign to keep with the dishes and cups reminding people that they must not be microwaved.

Upcoming events: The Youth Group is sponsoring an hour of Adoration on Sunday, December 15, at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited. Advent Bible Study begins today, Sunday, December 8. Our parish Advent Reconciliation service is on Wednesday, December 11, at 7 pm. Individual confession is from 3 to 4 pm each Saturday.

Ministry to Spanish speakers: The council welcomed our new member, Sacred Heart parishioner Alejandrina (Alex) Amado, and introduced themselves. She is going to help us work on eventually locating the Spanish-speaking community at Sacred Heart, rather than at St. Thomas More at WSU, or St. Augustine in Moscow. The number of Spanish-speaking families in faith formation classes is growing. We need to know what the community needs.

Alex reported that Fr. Jeff says a bilingual Mass twice a month at 1pm Sunday at St. Thomas More, followed by lunch. It would be very nice to have Mass every week, ideally at 5 pm, since many who would attend work at hotels or restaurants. It would be best to have a priest who speaks Spanish for confession.

The Spanish-speaking families meet each evening for nine days before the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and pray the rosary together. They are having Mañanitas at St. Thomas More at 5:30 am on the feast day, December 12, followed by Mass.

Alex is willing to help prepare Spanish-speaking children for sacraments. People were very happy that Fr. Steve was willing to perform a baptism in Spanish. There are probably more than 100 people who would attend Spanish Mass if it was offered at 5 pm each Sunday.

Fr. Steve said that the faith formation staff is working on Spanish materials for parents. Faith formation secretary Sue McNamara is retiring in the spring. The search committee is hoping to find someone bilingual to take her place. As other staff retire it would be best to hire bilingual people. Some people who had their children baptized here are now attending non-Catholic churches which offer more services in Spanish.

Building committee:

Fr. Steve just learned of another offer of land, 10 to 15 acres on the edge of Pullman, where we could build a new church. He and the building committee will look into it.

We are hiring the architectural firm Castellaw Kom, (CKA), from Lewiston, to do a study of our current site. They did a walk-through of our buildings and scanned all of the blueprints for the various buildings, so we will have electronic copies. The study will cost between \$8,000 and \$20,000 and will give us an idea of what we can do here. During the walk-through the architects had ideas for expanding our worship space, and adding egress from the classrooms. They said that fire safety issues don't kick in until there are at least 50 people in a room. But, it would be best to have the smallest children closest to the exits.

The committee is still negotiating on the Wawawai land. The land needs to be assessed to find out its actual value before the owner donates part of the land to us for a tax write-off.

The meeting closed with a prayer for Don & Char Snekvik.

Next meeting: Sunday, January 12, 9:45 am. Submitted by Mary Sutherland.