

**ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
AMENDED MINUTES FOR OCTOBER, 2019**

Attendees: Fr. Okoye, Steve Melaragno, Jesus Salazar, Tina Robledo, Arthur Moreno, Valentine Moreno, and Johanna Blanchard.

Meeting convened at 7:10 with prayer.

May minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

- Once we recruit more volunteers to help at Mass, we will move our prayer to St. Mary to the end of Mass.

New Business

- The Catechist Coordinator position was merged into the Director of Religious Education Position which was filled by Juan Serros. We have also hired Michael Guzman to be our Youth Coordinator.
- Ignite letters mailing out Fri, Oct 4. Sessions will be Tues, Oct 8, Sat, Oct 12, and Sun, Oct 13. Sessions will be designed to have English presentation first, meal together, then the Spanish presentation on the back side. Pledge cards will also be handed out.
- Committee for Parish Hall Renovation has been formed. Tim Kelty is the Chairman and members are: Jesus and Lucy Salazar, Michael and Elsa Gonzales, Sonia Montoya, Shirley Theriot, Willie Garcia, Steve Melaragno, and Irene Ocanas as the Secretary to the Committee. Steve would like to talk with the Diocesan Building and Facilities Manager and find out their recommendations on hiring an architect and contractor. Fr Okoye would like to have a projected cost for the Hall Renovation to use for the Ignite Capital Campaign Sessions. He would also like to see the Committee come up with a survey for the parishioners in order to get their input for the renovation.
- Aaron requested that we change the day of our Parish Council Meetings because it is a conflict for him. We all decided Wednesdays would be a better day. Our next meeting will be Wed, Nov 6.
- Fr. would like to start a Children's Liturgy of the Word instead of having the children come up with donations to receive a Holy card. He would like to have parishioners more engaged and to contribute more so that we can meet our monthly expenses without having to dip into our Festival earnings.
- Phillip Jackson, the Director of the Deaconate program, has asked Deacon Wally to retire. Fr. supports the request. Deacon Wally can continue assisting with RCIA and being a signator on the church account. Plans are to host a retirement reception for Deacon Wally. Johanna suggested that if Deacon Wally still had the desire to preach, maybe he could do it in the form of a letter in the bulletin once a month.
- Irene Ocanas had suggested that the Rectory Flooring be kept as a separate expense from the Hall Renovation. Fr has received a quote from Cut Rate Carpet for approx \$21,378 and from Zimmerle Flooring for \$13,251. Fr will decide which one to go with.
- Fellowship Sunday as a fundraiser. Fr spoke with Michael Gonzales about recruiting people from 3 Hispanic groups to start a breakfast fundraiser. Jesus pointed out that these Hispanic groups are not all that big. For instance, the Family Movement group has

members from Sweeny, Clute, etc and also that the members are often the same members of other groups. He went on to say that people were upset because these different groups were not commissioned at the Feast Day Mass held on Sep 28. Fr explained that there was a misunderstanding. Also, once all groups are trained, they will be commissioned as well.

- Fr is going to work on getting more people to serve on Parish Council to relieve those that have been serving for a long time.
- 2019 Festival results were \$57,000 compared to 2018's \$69,000. The Co-Chairs for the 2020 Festival are Aaron Ware and Lorenzo Gomez. They are to put together a festival committee to present to the parish so we can pray for them.
- Upcoming events:
 - Fr will be the Spiritual Director for the Holy Land Pilgrimage and will be gone Oct 14-26
 - Turkey dinner Oct 27
 - Fall Festival Oct 31—No evil costumes.

As mentioned, our next meeting will be Wed, Nov 6.

Adjourned at 9:00 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Blanchard, Council Member