

St. Anne's Pastoral Council Meeting

April 18, 2013

In attendance: Father Brandon Ware, Deacon Greg Yeager, Annette Murdaca, Joan Cahill, Donna Dominguez, Tom Driscoll, Cheri Evans, Frank Flores, Cristina Herrera, Juan Herrera, Laura Sandoval, Anna Molina, Saul Molina, Armando Moreno, Ben Huerta, Jesus Perez, Jose Ordaz

Special Guest: Teresa Locke (Finance Council)

The meeting opened with Adoration, Evening Prayer, and Benediction in the chapel.

The business meeting began with the request from Council Chairperson, Annette Murdaca, for the approval as-written of the February minutes. There was no meeting in March as the date conflicted with the annual Mass of the Oils at the Cathedral.

The minutes were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

Finance Council Report: Tom Driscoll indicated that the Community Plaza Project was the current issue facing the Finance Council and that he had nothing to report until the decision to approve or disapprove the preconstruction costs came forth from the Pastoral Council at this evening's meeting.

Youth Program Report: Cristina Herrera provided Council members with both an oral and excellent written summary report of the presentation on youth and young adults at the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting held in March. The meeting was also attended by Annette Murdaca and Glenn Lewis. Cristina reported that it was cited that the Catholic Church is lacking youth involvement compared to other denominations specifically in their knowledge of Scripture. She also indicated that it was discussed that we need to expand our youth and young adult programs and in particular develop a means to retain "new comers" in these groups. She informed us that typically those that stay in the programs already have a Faith foundation from home. A key suggestion toward the evangelization

of the new comers was to meet them where they currently are at in their Faith and to take small steps forward on the Faith journey. Additional goals were outlined at the Diocesan Council Meeting for both groups as well as steps to implement them beginning with prayer. Cristina also reported that the area of social justice was a key attraction for the top 15 parish youth ministries.

In order to allow time for the discussion of the Community Plaza Project this evening, the following reports were not given:

Petal Ministry: No report

Youth Ministry Report: No report

Thornton Petal Ministry Report: No report

Pastor's Report:

Community Plaza Project (formerly known as the Street Closure Project):

Fr. Brandon brought the Council up to date on the project by elaborating on a written summary of progress that was provided to each Council member. Having been approved by the City Council, the Bishop, and Msgr. Ryan, the executive committee for the project appointed three subcommittees in the areas of design led by Tawny Urrutia, fund raising led by Annette Murdaca and Helen Crane, and City of Lodi interface (communication) led by Bill and Angie Rogan. A committee consisting of Fr. Brandon, Deacon Greg Yeager, and Dennis Taricco are currently awaiting bids from three landscape architects. Upon acceptance of a bid, the architect will provide a conceptual design, construction documents, and construction observation. The construction documents will then be submitted to Parkland Constructions for their bid which will in turn be reviewed by an independent professional service. Engineering services such as topographical surveys, demolition plans to allow landscaping, and parking lot designs are being provided by Rich Thomas, partner of Baumbach & Piazza. In addition, electrical engineering will be required to work along with landscaping.

Fr. Brandon then reviewed the pre-construction costs for engineering that included: obtaining City approval, additional engineering costs, landscape architect costs, and the land purchase. In all, this totaled \$121,601 of which \$36,000 was approved by Council on May 23, 2012, leaving a remainder of \$85,601 needing to be approved by the Council this evening.

Fr. Brandon went on to state that the estimated plaza construction cost range would totally be dependent on materials and scope and was estimated to be \$500,000 - \$1,200,000 which included the pre-construction costs.

At this point, Fr. Brandon began to share his vision and hopes for the Community Plaza Project and why it was the appropriate time during his leadership to bring the project forward. He cited that first communication was established through the development of the Flower with its Petal Ministries which has led to a stronger sense of community at St. Anne's. Next, came the Chapel project which further brought us together, and now the Community Plaza Project that affords yet another opportunity for community building and a uniting in spirit of all ministries, all cultures, the Church, and the school. He expressed his hope that the plaza would be a visible manifestation of unity developed in our Parish. He described that the plaza would be a "work of art" to last over 100 years, that it would tie in the grotto and iron work between school, church, and chapel, and that it would not only be a place of peace for parishioners but for the community of Lodi as well. Fr. Brandon went on to inspire us by indicating that the plaza would be another way of praising our Lord and giving thanks that the project will be of and for the glory of God.

Fr. Brandon and Annette now brought up the issue of fundraising for the project. To date, \$461,814 has been committed. The Mexican-American Catholic Federation has generously offered to make a matching contribution of \$100,000. Annette emphasized our challenge to raise the \$100,000 that they will match.

A discussion ensued regarding how to get parishioners to desire to contribute time, talent and particularly money to the project. Tom Driscoll expressed that a church should praise God and be a center of Faith and that the plaza would contribute to this spirit. He further expressed that he saw the project to be an

opportunity for the “communion of saints” between generations that have contributed to the 100 years of evolution of the church property. Jesus Perez expressed a particular concern about the Spanish community’s understanding of the need to fundraise and contribute to the project. He indicated that repeated promotion would be needed from the priests at Masses, Spanish Council members, and leaders in the Spanish community. Ben Huerta stated that when St. Joachim’s was built that the Spanish community felt very much a part of it and this led to a discussion of the challenge of creating ownership in the project. It was suggested to create an awareness of the photo opportunities the plaza will provide for quinceaneras and weddings. Armando Moreno suggested a talent show as a possible fundraiser expressing its potential to promote cultural unity.

Pre-construction Costs Approval

Discussion of fundraising drew to an end and Fr. Brandon asked for a motion from the Council to approve the remaining pre-construction costs for the Community Plaza Project totaling \$85,601. A motion to approve them was made by Joan Cahill followed by a second motion from Armando Moreno. The costs were approved.

Annette concluded the discussion of the Community Plaza Project by expressing that we need to pray to launch this project and that it needs to begin with the Council.

Stewardship

Fr. Brandon shared with us a valuable book, *Best Practices in Parish Stewardship*, which he has had to read as part of a class he is taking. He and Annette asked that we all obtain a copy of the book so that we can read it chapter-by-chapter and discuss/share a chapter at each Council meeting. With each chapter we are to ask the questions: 1) How is St. Anne’s presently meeting the goal in this chapter? 2) What challenge in the future might there be to meet that goal?

Petal Ministries

Fr. Brandon asked if it would be unreasonable to ask the Petal Ministries to focus all of their recruitment efforts on the Ministry Weekend that their Petal is showcased as part of the Flower. If feasible, he would like to eliminate individual membership drives. Unfortunately, time ran out before this topic could really be discussed, so it will be placed on the agenda for next month for further discussion.

The next meeting will be May 16, 2013 at 7:00PM.

The meeting was closed in prayer lead by Annette Murdaca who reminded us that as Council members we are co-workers with God, the Sacraments, and the Plaza Project.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cheri Evans.