

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 20, 2015

West Room

Attendees: Father Joe Marina, S.J.; Pastoral Council members Jack Schmitt (Chair), Stephen Alfieri, Kathleen Cagnina, Bob Lepisko, Debbi Olley Murphy, Adel O'Regan, David Pais

Members Absent: Patricia Dahl, Phil Gutierrez

The Chair, Jack Schmitt, began the meeting with an announcement that Jackie Perez has decided to step down as Vice Chair and as a member of the Pastoral Council. The Council expressed its regret about Jackie's decision and its deep appreciation for her contributions to the Council.

1. Prayer: Kathleen Cagnina

2. Pastor's Report

- Donation weekend (April 19) for AIDS Walk 2015 was a success; more than twice as much money was raised over last year's donations. The coffee hour for new parishioners, held on Sunday, April 19, was also very successful.
- The possibility of holding quarterly coffee hours was raised; the council discussed a Sunday in June as the next date, to be addressed at the upcoming Gathering of Ministries meeting on May 11. Ideally, another ministry will sponsor the coffee hour, as Gay Catholics did on April 19.
- Human trafficking has been a focus this past year for the ministries and the parish; the next focus will likely be the environment. This seems particularly apt given the expected encyclical on the environment from Pope Francis and the fact that SFX will host theologian Elizabeth Johnson as a speaker on January 28, 2016 in the church.
- There are plans in place to have a "subway series" of discussions with other churches in our West Side deanery, including Blessed Sacrament and Notre Dame. These talks will be timed before and after the papal visit in September, and will address social issues that affect New York City and the world. Topics will likely include economics, racial justice, women in the church, and LGBT concerns.
- SFX continues its plans for a raffle with proceeds to be split between the parish and Xavier Mission. The goal is to name the Men's Shelter for the late Ned Coughlin, S.J.
- The India Project Group will now be a separate 501(c)3 organization.
- At the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, May 17, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who have volunteered at Xavier Mission and been a central part of the parish, will be honored and thanked for their service. (They will be moving to an assisted living facility in the Bronx.)
- Ed Quinnan, S.J., a representative of the Northeast Province, plans to meet with the Pastoral Council at the June meeting to discuss the results of his discussions with various parish leaders and staff.
- Improving safety inside the church was discussed; SFX will explore the possibility of installing railings for the stairs that lead from the altar to the

congregation. These railings would need to complement the architectural restoration of the church; Father Joe plans to get a drawing from the architect to see how this would look.

- There was an informal discussion about Holy Week and related issues, including overcrowding, increasing awareness of special services (e.g. the Lenten prayer concert) to boost attendance, and addressing concerns about liturgical style and logistics. The Pastoral Council will continue to discuss the above matters as appropriate during the coming year.

3. Pastoral Council Spring Schedule

- It is the Pastoral Council's intention to attend the Gathering of Ministries on May 11, with Jack Schmitt, Chair, to greet the ministries on behalf of the council.
- The Chair selection process for the Pastoral Council will take place in May (discernment of candidates), with selection in July.
- The fall retreat will likely move from the weekend of October 2-4 to October 9-11, as long as all council members agree to the new date.

4. Ministry Groups Reports

- All of SFX's ministries have been contacted, in most cases with meetings either having taken place or scheduled to take place. Most recently, the Pastoral Council has met with the Zen Meditation ministry, the Spiritual Care to the Sick/Homebound ministry, Ability Xavier, and the Honduras Companions Community Project ministry. The council is continuing its open communication with SFX's many ministries, addressing questions of core values and goals, leadership, and space needs.

5. Announcements and New Items

- No new items.

6. Summary and Review

- The council discussed the viability of holding a church tour for interested parishioners at the next coffee hour.

7. Closing Prayer: Kathleen Cagnina