

Pastoral Council Meeting Notes
November 20, 2024

Present: Fr. Andy Switzer, Colin Hayden, Patrick Green, Vanessa Santiago, Christine Wiegman, Connie Bonner, Bassell Franks, Brendan Jarrell, Cate Hershey (and Jerry Fitzgerald attended as an observer)

Not present: Heather Garcia, Shana Harris (Blanche Landry)

Roles: Pastor: Fr. Andy; Co-chairs: Colin Hayden, Christine Wiegman; Prayer leader: Vanessa Santiago; Recorder: Brendan Jarrell

Opening Prayer: Led by Vanessa

Reading: - 2 Cor 4: 8-9

Reflections: Laments or hopes for our communities based on the centralizing scripture of our opening prayer. Tensions in our communities around immigrants, marginalized communities, Lament is lack of awareness of God's love. Hope is that we awaken to God's love. We have to be aware of the signs of the times, we need to be willing to speak up and stand against hate.

UPDATES/NEW BUSINESS:

October/November events –

- Council members recapped trunk or treat and ecumenical prayer gatherings. 90+ cars attended the T-or-T event. Most of the ecumenical prayer events and the interreligious dialogue between local Imam, Rabbi, priest and LDS member were also well attended.

Parish ministries

- Purpose statements needed. No purpose statements were collected yet. Connie – Homeless Meals ministry, Bassell – Music ministry, Vanessa – Hispanic ministry, Patrick – the Chums, Jerry – Peace Justice and
- Fr. Andy discussed the formation of the Hispanic ministry and the activities and outreach they will start doing in the coming months. Vanessa Santiago is the chair of the ministry. So far Spanish language missals have been ordered and will be available at all the masses. Vanessa talked about the importance of Epiphany for the Hispanic people. She also said that her daughter had had her quinceañera blessing at St. Agnes – another Hispanic tradition for girls when they turn 15.
- Fr. Andy announced the Immigration committee which will be involved in integration of displaced migrants in our community. He stated that Bishop Brennan has been informed and is in support of the formation of an Immigration committee, which is a response to the history our Church being a sanctuary for migrants. The committee will receive help from Enid Roman De Jesus who works for the diocese and will draw on assistance from lawyers, nurses, ESL teachers, transportation to medical services, etc. Fr. Andy reminded PC that the parish accompanied a Ukrainian woman and her 2-year-old daughter this past year and that we are to cultivate an environment of acceptance in our communities.

Advent activities

- Bishop Stowe will be here on first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30 - Dec. 2. He will speak after the 10:30 Mass and then Monday evening he will speak at the War Memorial Bldg. PC will coordinate a light lunch for the Sunday event.

- Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, the auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, will be with us on Dec 20th. Parish will celebrate Las Posadas – a tradition in Mexico and other Latin American countries in which people reenact the journey that Mary and Joseph made looking for shelter, walking through town and singing, asking for shelter, then joining together for warm drinks snacks afterward. Vanessa is organizing this along with the Hispanic ministry.

Pastoral Council report

- The report was presented and feedback was given. Edits to be made by Christine and then submitted to Fr. Andy for final review. Vision statement will also be reviewed and edited by Christine, Brendan, Colin and Cate, and then included in the PC report. The report will be printed, put into the bulletin and read at the Masses on Jan 11/12th weekend. PC council members are asked to attend as many of the Masses as they are able that weekend.

Parking lot items for future meeting:

- Ecumenical services or activities for Lent, particularly Ash Wednesday
- Sensory liturgy for people with disabilities.
- Gathering space committee to work on business plan and stewardship
- Large tent purchase was spoken about. Bassell posits a “tent series” where we would use the spaces of other churches, renting them for events as an alternative for a gathering space / tent.

Closing prayer and next meeting reminder: Pastoral council members to attend Dec 20th, Las Posadas instead of meeting.