

Pastoral Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

PRESENT:, Dotsevi Sogah, Tom Dunn, Nicole Carrier-Titti, Fr. Joe Marcoux, Alex DeRoos, Madeline LaRocca, , Kristin Campagnolo, Stephen Jesch, Jose Martinez

ABSENT: Joseph Babcock (excused), Tom O’Toole, (excused), Sally Ramirez (excused), Alejandro Santana

1. Prayer and Reflection. Led by Nicole. Shared a reflection on the Gospel from the 5th Sunday of Lent (*John 11:1-45*). Shared concerns and troubles are heard by God.

2. Approval of minutes. Nickie moved to approve; Alex seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. Dedication of Parish Center. 300 people are invited. We have been asked by Jean Luzzi to help out with serving at the reception. Everyone helping will where a nametag. Anne Marie will get back to us to tell us what they want us to do. At the dedication, Joseph will say a few words to thank Bishop Matano on behalf of the PC.

4. DR development committee. Ann Marie is asking for a recommendation from the PC regarding the monies that are sent monthly to the Portal de Belen. Below is the text of email from Ann Marie (on behalf of the DRDC) to the PC:

Fr. Joe asked the Dominican Republic Development Committee to make a recommendation to the PC and to him about the money that we send to the Missionary Sisters of Jesus each month.

Since 2000, we have been sending \$1000 a month to the DR to support the Portal de Belen School. At the beginning of this relationship (which was also the beginning for the school), we were one of the major sources of funding for the school. The school had about 60 students. Over the years, the population in the school has grown to over 270 students, but the sources of funding for the school have also grown. Over the past couple of years, the Ministry of Education has begun to fund much of the school, including the teacher’s salaries, some of the food, resources, etc. Our monies go to support the salaries for the teachers of the nursery school and the care-givers for the babies. It also funds some of the food, the bus driver, security and other expenses.

We had wanted to raise the amount of money that we contribute to the Missionary Sisters to \$2000 a month and two years ago set about raising awareness again of this mission through the pictures that were distributed, information in the bulletin, and the signs at the doors. But, through Fr. Ron we learned that they may not need additional money for the school because of the funding they are already receiving.

We would ask the PC to recommend that we ask the Sisters to continue to use our money as a source of income for the Portal de Belen, but allow them to use any money that isn't needed for the school for other programs and needs within the communities they work in. This might include youth ministry, micro-financing projects, ministry to the sick and elderly, etc.

We believe that this will allow us to feel confident that all the money donated through the DR bowls and other donations from St. Catherine's parishioners to the Foundation can be put to good use by the Ministry Sisters of Jesus.

Our first priority is the Portal de Belen, but after those needs are met, they should use our donations for other purposes they believe can best serve the people of Monte Plata, Naugua, and other places where their ministry might expand.

If you approve of the recommendation we will speak to Sr. Teresa and Sr. Iris about this change while they are visiting at the end of the month.

Nickie motioned (seconded by Steve) that that we continue to give monies to the Portal de Belen, but after their needs are met, we Sisters allow the Sisters to use the extra funds as needed. Approved unanimously. (Kristen abstained). In addition, the PC agreed that there needs to be transparency as to where the money is spent in the form of an annual report from the sisters to St. Catherine's. In addition, this change needs to be communicated to parishioners summarizing the reasoning behind these changes.

4. Survey. Tom Dunn and Nickie presented a sample parish-wide survey. Jose suggested that there needs to be a statement as to why the PC is asking for the survey (i.e. we want to serve the community better and we believe that the survey is a tool that will help us do accomplish this goal). Agreed that demographic data needs to be collected to match the survey responses with the appropriate demographic group.

Fr. Joe's Comments. 90 participants who responded to the letter asking for increased donations. In response to the letter, this amounted to a \$75,000 annual increase in giving plus a total of \$25,000 in one-time gifts). There was a review of the parish policies and procedures related to finances audit, which will result in unspecified changes. There will likely be a separate financial audit sometime in the future.

5. Thanks. People to be thanked in the bulletin. Teach Us How to Pray and High School Youth Group. Jane Doyle. 200 club dinner (purchase property). Ministry Fair. Volunteers who helped with Day of Mercy and Penance.

Respectfully submitted by Stephen Jesch