

St. Ignatius of Antioch Church
Pastoral Council Meeting
February 11, 2020

Present: Will Avitabile, Catherine Vidaurri, Steve Andreatta, Vince Augusta, David Rodrigues, Theresa Nelms (Finance Council Liaison)

Absent: Reggia Desmond, Bill Barbanica, Father Robert

New Guest: Susannah Nelson, discerning prospective member

*The meeting was called to order at 7:40, with prayer led by Will.

*Minutes of January 2020 meeting were approved.

*Steve reported that both spiritual and musical content, along with attendance of concert and workshop were overwhelmingly positive, as indicated by input of choir and Mass-goers. Steve was not able to relay information on funds collected or spent on the project, as office personnel had been instructed to not make that information available at this time. Closer scrutiny of artists' contracts may need to be applied in the future. Reorganization of Concert Guild as a separate entity, a 501-C, is a possibility.

*Will and Theresa both offered that the Bishop's Appeal announcement should appear as lower profile than Father's weekly Mass appeals for the Expansion Project. The group agreed, and Theresa will share this idea with Father and Finance Council at their next meeting. Meanwhile, Finance Council is currently discussing whether their representation at Pastoral Council will continue.

*News on the Expansion meeting with the Bishop scheduled earlier that very day, was unavailable, as Father was unable to attend council.

*Catherine gave a brief recap of PCs dinner at Winter Nights—a resounding success. Will relayed that the Parking Lot program starting over at the Community Presbyterian Church has been poorly attended, and any commitment for St. Ignatius participating will have to wait on Winter Nights' decision to continue.

*Catherine reminded everyone of the New Parishioners' Brunch scheduled for April 26th, and shared that Reggie, who has always decorated and set tables beautifully for us, as well as providing food contributions, will not be able to attend, as she will be out of town that weekend. Members present will surely have more than one duty to carry out when the day comes, but we have always been successful in hosting a joyful and bountiful breakfast. Food assignments will be discussed very soon, but members may rest assured that the parish is willing to reimburse our expenses.

*Bill had been asked to update and reformat the welcoming brochure given to new guests at Mass, but as he was unable to attend, a sample was unavailable. The Council discussed past difficulties in having office staff man a welcoming table in front of Church after Masses on a weekly basis, so one alternative plan was that at least once a month, newcomers would be invited into the office to sit down and be officially welcomed and to receive assistance in filling out the forms, though the idea of having the welcoming committee be a separate ministry has not found favor. Thus, follow-up is still a concept in the works, as often time it is several, or many months until the New Parishioner's Brunch. How do we keep them feeling wanted and welcomed in the meantime? Thankfully, newcomers have always expressed that we instill in them an "at home" feeling, and out guest, Susannah, herself a newcomer, concurred.

*Finance chair requested our council to help take responsibility for raising the \$100K still needed to begin the expansion, and that we should start to gather ideas for that. Susannah, a veteran Catholic school administrator, added that making contributions easier to physically make, could make a difference, as there are "apps" that she has used in her professional work that have helped the money flow.

*The meeting was adjourned promptly with closing prayer by Will at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Vidaurri