

St. Therese Catholic Church

Parish Pastoral Council

January 9, 2018

Present: Msgr. Elvin Sunds, Elsa Baughman, Angelia Estrada, Teresa Hayes, Jill Hisaw, James Kelley, Lucy Stevenson

The meeting opened at 6:16 pm with the prayer accompanying our diocesan Mission Statement. Co-President Elsa Baughman presided. Minutes from the meeting on November 28, 2017, were approved.

Report on Building Project

Construction will begin once the weather clears. Joel Montoya and his crew have removed most of the playground equipment, which could not be salvaged. The corners of the building have been staked out. There were two options for building the foundation -- slab on grade (which we have enough money to cover) or pilings (in which 7 feet of yazoo clay would be dug out and replaced, and the building would be set on 30- to 35-foot pilings filled with concrete). The latter option would be more stable but also significantly more expensive, requiring us to borrow money. The bishop decided to proceed with the more stable option, making our total construction cost approximately \$1.5M. The building will have a steel roof with a standing seam, meaning that the roof will last longer and be low-maintenance. In addition, the building will have all LED lighting and will be divided into four zones for heating and AC.

Out of a total of 362 families at St. Therese, 99 have pledged to our campaign so far. We are hoping to reach 150. The total amount pledged is \$196K. We did the Capital Campaign on our own without help from the diocese. We did not use a professional company, which would have cost \$30-\$40K. The total of the pledges and what we currently have on hand is \$1,071,714. Fundraisers have brought in \$1,849. The CWA will donate some of the revenue from its Christmas in July sale. We will need to borrow approximately \$500K. Typically loans in the diocese are for a maximum of 10 years, but the bishop has agreed to a 15-year loan at 2 ½ % (reduced interest rate) for St. Therese. This would amount to about \$3K per month.

Men's Retreat

On Saturday, February 10, the Redemptorists of Greenwood will present a bilingual Men's Retreat on the topic "Faith, Family, and Fatherhood" at the Church. The retreat master will be Redemptorist Scott Katzenburger. Open to all men aged 18 and up, the retreat will begin with breakfast at 8:00 am and close at 3:00 pm. The retreat is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, but one does not need to belong to that organization to attend.

Lenten Soup Supper Programs

Ash Wednesday will be Feb. 14. The soup supper programs will begin on Friday, Feb. 16. Different organizations are signing up to provide the soup. Our schedule of programs is as follows:

Feb. 16 - Fr. Anthony Quyet speaking on his experience coming to the U.S. from Vietnam.

Soup provided by Pastoral Council

Feb. 23 - Part I of "God Grew Tired of Us" (Lost Boys of Sudan).

March 2 - Part II of "God Grew Tired of Us". Soup provided by Knights of Columbus

March 9 - Hugo Estrada (parishioner) speaking on his immigration experience

March 16 - Part I of "Under the Same Moon".

March 23 - Part II of "Under the Same Moon." Soup provided by Madonna Circle.

The Pastoral Council will bring soup on Feb. 16. Because of Lent, the soup must be meatless. Teresa Hayes will bring a vegetable soup to serve 30 people. Elsa will bring a crockpot full of one other soup. All paper products are already at the church. Lucy will bring fruit. Angelia will bring club crackers. Stations of the Cross will take place at 5:30 pm followed by the soup supper at 6:00 pm. Teresa Hayes will create a bulletin announcement and will need to have it translated into Spanish.

Sr. Lourdes Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, April 8

We need to reserve the gym. The event will be a fiesta featuring a potluck meal. The event is not a surprise, so we do not need to conceal our plans from Sr. Lourdes. We need to get a committee with Hispanic representation. A planning meeting will be held on Jan. 24 at 6:00 pm. Angelia will check options for a mariachi band.

Next Pastoral Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 6, at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

We have changed to the first Tuesday of each month.

Future meetings will be held on the following dates:

April 10

May 1

[skip June and July]

Aug 7

Sept 11

Oct 2

Nov 13 (moved to avoid the election)

Dec 4

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm with the prayer accompanying our diocesan Mission Statement.