

**St. Augustine Parish Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**June 11, 2007**

*PPC Attendees:* Father Bob Whelan, Deacon Joe Bichotte, Pat Conway, Edgar Flores, Gillian Frasier, Mozart Guillaume, Tim Hurley, Richard Lewis, Eileen McHugh, Rosario Pelaez, Anne Richards, Reneida Reyes, Michele Somerville

*Guests:* Beulah M. Joel, Marge Miller, Ana Neira, Thomas Rooney

**Pastor's Report**

Father Bob gave a brief review of a few items. He let us know that the capital campaign continues and we've collected halfway to our goal. The work on the tower is progressing, and the hope is that the work will continue to proceed more and more quickly so we may be able to finish before winter, which seems possible at this point.

He also let us know that Frankie Marquez, our maintenance person, is resigning after many years to take another job. We wish him well and are looking for someone new to fill the position.

Also, we recently had a financial audit by the Diocese. All went well and they had a few recommendations which Father Bob and the finance committee will go over with the PPC so we can determine which of them to adopt.

Finally, Father Bob also gave us an update about his term ending, since he's been getting a lot of questions about this. Since he is currently completing his second term, and Bishop DiMarzio doesn't give third terms, next year at this time he will probably have a new assignment. It could be as early as January but could also be delayed a bit depending on where he is needed. As he prepares for the transition, he'll be trying to see if people can take over tasks that he's been working on. We briefly discussed if we should think about how to let people know, but decided we can talk about this in September.

**Review of Mission Statement**

We re-read the parish Mission Statement, as developed at the last meeting, and revised it a bit as follows:

*We are the Church of Saint Augustine, a community of Christian Disciples in the Roman Catholic tradition, united in worship since 1870. Trusting in God and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we embrace our diversity. As faithful stewards of our gifts, we witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through education, fellowship, service, and a commitment to the arts and social justice.*

This draft is still in process and we will continue to refine it and review it at our next meeting.

## **Parish Assembly Feedback**

Rosario shared with us some of the first feedback she gathered from the Spanish community's cards from the parish assembly. Her general impressions of the feedback was that members of the Spanish community feel that the faith of our community is strong, the parish is unique, and involves everyone. They are concerned with involving teenagers in the community more, and also mentioned they would like more social activities like bingo, movies, dances, etc.

Mozart shared some of the Haitian community's feedback with us. He said that they mentioned they would like more participation in the parish, and they are also concerned with trying to get the teenagers more involved. This was expressed by some people as spiritual formation for the young – to give them more stuff to participate in so they can get a taste of what the Church is, and so they can take over as leaders some day.

Pat, Rosario, and Mozart will work together over the summer to tackle transcribing all of the cards from the assembly and getting them in a form that we can share with each other and with the parish as a whole.

## **Feedback from One to Ones**

Pat asked if anyone had something more to share on the One to Ones. Gladys had mentioned to Pat that one thing that came up for her was outreach to divorced Catholics who feel they've been separated from the Church but don't want to be. Father Bob said there are support groups in the diocese, and we all observed from the Parish Data that this was a significant percentage of our population.

## **Beginning of Goal Formation**

We reviewed p. 26 of our Blue Books to discuss Goal Formation, the next step in the Pastoral Planning process. We worked through some potential goals by focusing on the three different sentences of the Mission Statement.

The first sentence evoked for us the issue of Worship as central, with the following possible areas of focus:

- Reaching out to non-practicing Catholics and drawing in other worshippers.
- Renewing a commitment to the Sunday Eucharist, emphasizing the importance of being a church by worshipping together. We could focus on those who already claim themselves as parish members and think about how we could get these people to come to mass every week (Father Bob mentioned that regular mass attendance is only about 25-30% of registered parishioners.). An example of a goal in this area might be: To increase the number of parish members participating in weekly services and the sacraments.
- We also discussed the idea of getting all active worshippers registered as members of the parish. An example of a goal in this area might be: To create an accurate census in order to register our parishioners.

The second sentence of the draft Mission Statement mentions embracing our diversity. This issue was one that had come up a lot in the assembly, and we thought about the following:

- The desire of the three language communities to all participate in a meaningful way.
- The importance of recognizing we are one church, not three.

The third sentence seemed to speak to a lot of the social ideas we'd discussed, around reaching out to people through structured activities as a kind of pre-evangelization. Specific ideas included:

- Involving teenagers more as Lectors, and Ministers of Hospitality.
- Thinking of ways we can invite in students who have just been confirmed.

The above are just the few preliminary goal areas and ideas we discussed at the meeting. For the planning process, we will need to pick 3-4 goals in total to work on.

Mozart, Rosario and Pat will write up the feedback and get it to Jill, Richard, Anne, and Tim, who will work together over the summer to pull together a few draft goals from what we have so far (as well as the One to Ones and assembly feedback). This committee will send informal notes as well as some draft goals out to the whole group after they meet.

## **Second Assembly**

We decided to have an informal second "assembly" on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. After each mass, we will have people come down to Monica Hall to review the mission statement and goals and provide their feedback.

Pat mentioned that the Cluster coordinator would like to have the date of our assembly as well as the number of One to Ones we've completed. Pat asked that everyone who hasn't sent her info yet to please do so.

## **Rounds**

We ended the meeting with brief rounds as well as input from our visitors.

Tom was distressed that people come late to mass, and we discussed briefly whether there was any way we could reach out to people to have them be more on time. He also mentioned that he's sometimes the only usher and needs to get help. Father Bob agreed that we need to do some more recruitment for Ministers of Hospitality.

Beulah observed that getting people together is a great way to get people involved, and this is something we should keep in mind throughout the planning process.

Michele mentioned that she sometimes goes to other language masses and finds it hard to follow. She was wondering if there was some way to have something copied so people can follow along. Father Bob mentioned that for the Spanish masses, the hymns are there, as are a box of Spanish

missals, and Deacon Joe xeroxes materials for the Haitian mass every week. We agreed it would be a good thing if we could make people more aware of these resources.

**This was our final meeting for the year. Have a great rest of the summer and see you in the fall!**