

The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting August 11, 2015

Members present: Fr. Frank Palmieri-Pastor, Fr. Noly Berjuega-Parochial Vicar, Valerie Williams-President, Nicole Macedo-Recording Secretary, Donna Kearney, Sharry Williams, Dianne Trapini, Joey Duggan, Mark Mossell

Members absent: Mitch Williams

Additional Parishioners/ Ex officio members present: Claude Esperson-St. Jude Alumni Assoc., Tina Couture- Religious Education, Sonia Taylor- KPCLA, Marty Greene-KOC, Frank Costas-Youth Minister, Irene Dunlap-Hispanic Community, Kristi Doyle-Principal SAS, Tom Paturzo-Finance Officer, Dr. Derek Thomas- KOPC, Noreen Wall- Women's Guild, Dwight and Cheryl Coleman, Parishioners

Fr. Frank opened the meeting with a prayer and discussed his history serving the Diocese of Charleston in Goose Creek and Spartanburg. Fr. Noly introduced himself and discussed his background. Introductions of all members present were made.

The Pastoral Council Minutes from April 21, 2015 (previously emailed) were approved with no changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/OLD BUSINESS.

*** Irene Dunlap- The Hispanic Community is looking forward to meeting with Fr. Frank and Fr. Noly soon to discuss the Spanish Mass and plans for the upcoming celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Irene discussed the history of the Mass for Our Lady and how things had been done in the past and in more recent years. Fr. Frank has many ideas on the Mass for Our Lady and will gladly meet with the Hispanic Community Committee.**

*** Tina Couture- Discussed the merging of Religious Education Programs at the St. Jude Location. The classes K-8th grade and Confirmation are fully staffed. Each grade level will have their own room and Teacher. Most classes have 2 teachers or a classroom aid. There will be a Teacher training on August 15th, an open registration day on August 23rd and an Open house on Sunday August 30th.**

Tina also discussed the need to have more help with the Spanish speaking parents. Especially in the RCIC program. Nicole Macedo explained that the RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) program is in place for the children who have missed their Sacraments. Children who have not attended Religious Education that want to receive their Sacraments must complete 1 full year of Religious Education and the accompanying RCIC program. This is to "Catch them up" on what they would have learned in the years they did not attend. Nicole referred the PC to the Bulletin for the Bishop's expectations concerning Sacraments and the Policy of the Catholic Community of Sumter. The enrollment for the RCIC program for the 2015-2016 school year is expected to double. A lot of these children are from the Hispanic Community. They speak English, but many times their parents do not. Religious Education needs someone who can translate for the parents. Fr. Frank suggested a possible Adult Education for the parents to run at the same time as Religious Education. He asked the Faith Formation Department to coordinate with the Hispanic Community Committee to iron out these issues.

*** Frank Costas-Youth Minister discussed the renovations to the Youth Building at the St. Jude Location. This includes new paint, furnishings, and refinished hardwood floors. All of this work has been done by himself, Cindy Tavarez-Youth Minister, their families and volunteers. They have been working non-stop to get the building transformed for the upcoming Youth Group Program. Frank stated that he was impressed by the number of adult volunteers, without kids in the youth group, that showed up to help. Frank stated that their plans include an open house on August 30th to introduce themselves to the Kids and families. Valerie Williams commended Frank and Cindy on the beautiful changes to the Youth Building.**

***Marty Greene- KOC discussed upcoming opportunities for parishioners to join the Knights of Columbus. Fr. Frank stated that he was already a member, but Fr. Noly is not. Marty stated that he looks forward to their support.**

***Sonia Taylor – KPCLA submitted the group’s calendar for the year. Their upcoming Vendor fair/ Shopping Extravaganza will be on September 19.**

***Donna Kearney – Stated that the Women’s Guild will host their Welcome Back Event on August 30th from 1-3pm in the St. Anne Parish Center.**

***Kristi Doyle- SAS Principal stated that the School year begins on August 17th. The school hosted a family Clean – up day of the classrooms and the outdoor space. The Teachers are already back to work and in full swing. She asked for prayers for a successful school year.**

***Valerie Williams stated that SFXHS is also preparing for the new year. They have had a cleanup day and have a new Principal.**

*** Nicole stated that with all of the changes happening recently, the planning of the Parish Picnic was overlooked. The PC decided that even at this late date, a Picnic should be planned. Nicole will book the Heath Pavilion for October 18th.**

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Margaret J. Lafoon Trust- College Scholarships- Fr. Frank was briefed on the issue of the Margaret J. Lafoon Trust. PC asked permission to form a Scholarship Committee for the Dispersement of College Scholarships within the Catholic Community of Sumter. Fr. Frank stated that first, we had to find out from the Diocese the status of the Trust. Valerie Williams stated that she tried numerous times to contact Terri Brisson at the Diocese but was unable to get a response. Fr. Frank asked Nicole to contact Cristina Natividad and inquire on his behalf.**

***Possible Changes to mass times – Fr. Frank is in agreement that the Mass times for the CCoS should be staggered. He feels it is a problem to have duplicated mass times. PC is in full agreement and Fr. Frank will work with Nicole to come up with suitable changes that will accommodate the Religious Education Program.**

***Parish Council Elections- Valerie Williams discussed the need to include new members into the PC and allow for other ideas to be presented. The current council was not elected but rather appointed by Fr. Tom. Fr. Frank went over the Parish Council Policies and stated that for right now, he needed all current PC members to stay on the council. He will explore the options for PC elections in the near future.**

NEW BUSINESS:

*** Fr. Noly addressed PC and stated that he and Fr. Frank hope to unify the parishioners of St. Anne and St. Jude. Beginning in September they would like to make small Liturgical changes across both Parish Locations.**

***Fr. Frank stated that so far he and Fr. Noly have been very happy with what they see in the CCoS. He stated that he has read the history of both locations and feels that “our stories are beautiful”. Each location has a unique history but now “We need to work together”.**

Closing Comments: Fr. Frank and Fr. Noly wish to thank everyone for the warm welcoming that they received when they arrived. Nicole Macedo will send out reminder emails to the PC members and set the agenda. Fr. Noly led us prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary