

**SPN Pastoral Council Meeting
November 2, 2009**

Present:

Fr. Saloy	Louis Arrigo	Stacia Bua
Dan Crumb	Rebecca Derbes	Matt Holmer
Al Hoyt	Mary Spain	Jean Turner
Tommy Villarubia	Scott Whittaker	

Opening Prayer: The meeting commenced at 7:35 p.m. with a prayer led by Mary Spain.

Approval of October Minutes:

Jean asked if there were any changes to be made to the October meeting minutes. Matt moved that the minutes be approved as written, Rebecca seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Fr. Saloy Update:

Father asked Scott Whittaker to address the Council and offer an explanation of certain documents recently filed and recorded in the Secretary of State's office. Scott explained that Father's signature had recently been requested on these documents, which were an Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of St. Philip Neri Roman Catholic Church. These documents effectively change the membership of the Corporation from the congregation of the Parish to one member. Specifically, the document states: "The Archbishop or Administrator of the Archdiocese of New Orleans shall be ex-officio the sole Member of this corporation."

Father also asked Tommy Villarubia to address the Council on the exterior Church sign project. Because Tommy was Chairperson of the Council at the time of this project's inception, he has remained actively involved in the project. Tommy explained that the exterior sign with the Church's name has been ordered, and Creative Graphics will be working on the lettering of the sign over the next three to four weeks. Tommy further explained that the sign will have four 30-foot cement pilings and should be erected during January 2010.

Tommy was also asked by Father to update the Council on the "Adopt an Angel" project. Tommy informed the Council that he and his wife, Sharon, recently received 32 pages of names from Catholic Charities for people who are requesting gifts for this Christmas. These sheets do not include names of St. Philip Neri parishioners; Tommy estimates that approximately 60% of gifts collected will go to SPN parishioners and 40% will be given to Catholic Charities to fulfill their requests.

Father informed the Council that the installation of new speakers in the multi-purpose room of the Parishioners' Center has been completed. He said that the new system has been used and the response on improved sound quality was overwhelmingly positive. He also stated a meeting is currently being scheduled to discuss new speaker installation in the church as well.

Father also let the Council know that he has extended an invitation to the Archbishop to celebrate the 50th anniversary mass. Father said the Archbishop has accepted the invitation and will serve as celebrant for the 4 pm mass on August 28, 2010.

Lastly, Father asked for the Council's opinion on the selling of religious crafts outside of church during this Christmas season. Father presented an email he recently received from Holy Land Gifts, which describes the crafts and also includes pricing. The Council decided that it is too late to have the gifts sold for this Christmas season, so it was decided that this topic be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

Jean Turner Update:

Jean informed the Council that there are two days left for Olan Mills to take anniversary book pictures in the Parishioners' Center. She also said that she and Father had discussed the idea of selling the anniversary books given to the Parish by Olan Mills to offset the cost of pages that might have to be purchased to include the ministry pictures. Jean also informed the Council that Mary Spain has contacted three needy families and arranged for them to receive the Olan Mills gift certificates given to St. Philip Neri by Olan Mills. Lastly, Jean mentioned that it has been decided that the names of ministry members will be listed alphabetically in the back of the anniversary book. This should eliminate any concerns about the naming of minors and also alleviate concerns about those ministry members who were unable to be included in ministry pictures.

Jean also mentioned that there have been concerns expressed about safeguarding against swine flu while in church. Jean showed the Council the statement recently posted on the Archdiocese's website on the subject, and it was agreed that this information would be published in the Parish bulletin.

Jean suggested that the Parish begin announcing that 2010 is the 50th anniversary of the Parish beginning in January of 2010. The Council agreed that this was an excellent idea. Jean mentioned that perhaps a banner could be made declaring 2010 the "Jubilee Year" for the Parish.

Old Business:

Pastoral Council Elections: Louis said that he is on schedule with preparations for the upcoming elections. He will have 500 ballots printed and has also volunteered to coordinate the candidates' pictures. Louis, Stacia and Rebecca will count votes on the evening of 12/6/09.

2010 Parish Sunday Gatherings Schedule: Mary said that she has completed coordination for the Altar Servers to host a monthly Sunday Gathering in 2010. Rebecca stated that all months for 2010 are now booked with various Parish ministries.

New Business:

Al mentioned that the issue of cell phones ringing during mass appears to have resurfaced. He suggested that an announcement be included at the beginning of mass asking parishioners to silence their cell phones, and the Council agreed that the lectors should once again make this announcement.

Al also suggested that the Parish purchase a publication entitled *Catholic Update*. Al said this publication is produced by St. Anthony Messenger Press and covers different relevant subjects each month. The Council agreed that the Parish should purchase this publication and place it in the bins with the weekly bulletin.

Al also mentioned that, because this is the “Year of the Priest”, perhaps the Parish should consider honoring Father Paul in some way. The Council discussed several options, and Al agreed to check on possibilities and let the Council know more information as he receives it.

Lastly, Al mentioned that there has been another series of thefts during mass at surrounding churches. The Council discussed ways to discourage or prevent crime from happening in the Parish. It was decided that an announcement should be placed in the bulletin reminding parishioners to not leave valuables in the pew at any time.

Rebecca made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Matt seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 9:15 p.m. with a prayer by Father Saloy.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacia T. Bua