

Attendees: Robert Ontko, Virginia Platt, Patrick Nguyen, Michael Amaechi, Fr. Paul Chovanec, Guadalupe Mussio, Luis (Knights of Columbus), Marilyn Paningbatan, Alderete, Kieran Ebunilo, Michael Akibo, Viviana Alderete, Kieran Ebunilo, Rosemary Tran (recording minutes)

Start time: 7:06pm

- I. **Opening Prayer:** Platt led prayer.
- II. **Action Item List:**
 - a. Web Update: Ontko announced that the only action item is the **web update**. Nguuyen asked for previous meetings' minutes. Nguyen only received minutes from ontko. Tran sent two sets of minutes earlier today. Tran will bring a camera to take new photos of all members at the next meeting. Ontko will reserve the library with the office for future meetings.
- III. **New Member Discernment:** Ontko invited all attendees to introduce themselves and share their involvement at SJM. Ontko then asked all current and potential new members to reflect on various questions regarding the needs, obstacles, and challenges that the parish faces.
 - a. Ontko believes that the biggest obstacle to the parish moving forward are parishioners who are not engaged or participate outside of mass.
 - b. Alderete believes that we are lacking unity or a sense of community. Having a stronger community would make a big difference in the community.
 - c. Nguyen is in agreement with Ontko. We are lacking involvement from more parishioners. We have the same people who are attending parish events and volunteering. Nguyen believes that we need more events (e.g. family nights) and activities that make the parish more fun and that will encourage parishioners to be a part of the community.
 - d. Chovanec thinks that creating a sense of belonging and shared responsibility would make a big difference.
 - e. Akibo notices that many parishioners tend to drift into their groups within the community. We should have more events similar to multicultural masses to bring together all the different ethnic and cultural groups.
 - f. As an usher at the 10am mass, Amaechi thinks that providing missalettes would help parishioners follow along in mass better.
 - g. Ebunilo would like the parish to have the gifts of patience and willingness to serve. As an usher, he sees how parishioners rush out of the church before the recessional.
 - h. Mussio would like to provide community-oriented programs. WIIFM (What's in it for me?) is a program that she used to have at work. Mussio would like to provide services such as free diabetes screening to keep people at the church. It

may seem selfish, but having the community present may eventually lead to more connections being made.

- i. In reference to the mission statement, Platt believes that we are missing reaching out to the community. Similar to Mussio, she thinks that offering weekend workshops for small businesses/health fairs and other free events to encourage participation from the community. When Platt first came to the parish, she appreciated the encouragement from Chovanec to the parish to sing in mass and the friendliness of the ushers. Mussio added that there are many resources to tap into to minimize costs.
- j. Several members asked that Chovanec and/or the deacons kindly remind parishioners of mass etiquette. Luis pointed out that there may be disruptive children during mass.

Ontko confirmed with Chovanec that there are twelve members that make up the Pastoral Council. With the current roster, there are five spots to be filled. Ontko wants all potential members to think about what they can contribute to the council and ask any questions. Chovanec reminded that all members of the council are here to represent the entire community and not any particular group/organization/ethnic community, i.e. no personal agenda. Meetings will take place once a month on Wednesday nights. It is a three year commitment. The biggest job of members is to pray for the parish. All attendees feel called to serve on the council. Eburnilo is fine with postponing his commitment to allow for all other potential members to join.

IV. **SJM Community Review:**

- a. Day of Prayer Report: Platt reported that the Daughters of Isabella had about thirty attendees at their Day of Prayer presented by Deacon Gene Festa. All attendees seemed to enjoy the presentation. The ministry leader (Joanne Radford) did mention that they needed more guidance, since this was their first time hosting a day of prayer.
- b. Archdiocesan Pastoral Council: The archdiocese is selecting a new pastoral council. We have until March 27 to select a representative from the parish who is currently on the council or has been in the last three years. This representative will go to the deanery level and then be considered to join at the archdiocese level. If not selected, the representative will still be a lay delegate. This is a three year commitment. Meetings are held on Saturdays.
- c. Parish Missions: The missions will take place on March 16-18 and will be offered in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. There will also be a youth mission.

V. **Pastor's Minute:** Chovanec announced that we have a need for an evangelization committee. The committee would have three jobs: 1) inspire the evangelical spirit within the parish, 2) reach out to Catholics, and 3) reach out to non-Catholics or people without a church home. Paningbatan added that the Lighthouse CDs will be arriving soon.

VI. **Open Forum:** Mussio asked Ontko to explain the "planning" expectation of the council. Ontko clarified that the council only provides guidance on other events.

VII. **Closing Prayer**

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00pm.

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