



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Council
November 19, 2015

Staff: Msgr. David LeSieur, Fr. John Miranda, Deacon Ronnie Hoyt, Parrish Manager, Judene Kuszak, Dir. of Rel Ed/Liturgy, Tom DeRose, Facilities Manager, Sandra Kugler, Dir. of Finance & Admin, Karla Thielemier, Parish School Principal **Members at Large:** Ryan James (President), Tiburcio Duran, Fernando Serrano **Commission Chair:** Guillermina Aguilar, Co-L&W, Bob Maloney, Parish Life, Sheila Pursell, Social Outreach (Secretary), Kathleen Reed, Co-L&W, Lorenzo Salas, Co-Formation, & Jeff Snyder, F&A **Not Present:** Fr. Alejandro Puello, Tony Hansmann, Oneyda Reyna, Kerry Laman, Pete Metzger, Ken Hunter

Deacon Ronnie Hoyt opened the meeting at 6:07 with prayer.

Started with Commission Reports -

School

Karla Thielemier reported on the successful trip to Washington D.C. SVdP sent a delegation to accept our school's National Blue Ribbon Award and to meet with our state and nation's educational and political leadership November 7th – 11th. Only one half of 1% of schools receives this award. Only 4 private schools in AR have received this award and 3 are Catholic.

In January 2016, School enrollment has increased to 361. There is a waiting list for next year's enrollment.

Finance & Administration - Jeff Snyder

YTD Operating Statement

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|--------------------|-----------|
| YTD Total Income: | \$731,839 |
| YTD Total Expenses | \$718,373 |
| YTD Net Income | \$ 13,466 |

School is ahead by 22,000

1.1 million in debt – 41 months left to pay off loan, 800,000 cash (18 weeks of operating costs)

Anticipating large donation months in November and December

The need for additional space for religious education, retreats and various ministries continues to be a challenge. As example, we will have over 1600 youth in our religious education.

Several parishioners are providing their real estate expertise free of charge to the parish regarding property information. There is a lot of property available on Poplar Street for purchase and for lease as a possibility for interim plan.

Following meeting of Committee for the Future and a list of needs, likes and dreams, the committee will plan trip to Little Rock to ensure the diocese is aware of plans. Plans would then be submitted to Parish Council for approval.

Internet has been installed in Paul Hall

Choir chairs will be replaced in church, however, approval needs to go to Bishop because over \$5,000 in expenses.

Half of Festival Grant Distribution:

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| Amount available to distribute | \$ 9,084.54 |
| 10% Tithe to the Parish | \$ 908.45 |
| 15% Social Outreach - (SVdP Society) | \$ 1,362.68 |
| American Heritage Girls (for Scholarships) | \$ 500.00 |
| Equipment for Hall | \$ 850.00 |
| Fuerza Anniversary Event | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Initiate – Family Catechesis | \$ 313.41 |
| Quiz Bowl | \$ 250.00 |
| Sacred Heart Enthronement | \$ 400.00 |
| Year of Mercy | \$ 3,500.00 |
| TOTAL Awarded | \$ 9,084.54 |

FORMATION - Judene Kuszak

Introduced Lorenzo Salas as co-chair of the Formation Commission alongside Ken Hunter

Created and Handed out a “How to lead Successful Ministries at St. Vincent De Paul Church” packets to Formation leaders at the last Formation meeting. These packets are available for all Ministries through the Church office. Includes how to schedule facilities, bring in speakers, request support monies for ministry needs.

Passion and Purpose for Marriage with Dr. Allen Hunt will occur on January 8th from 7pm to 10:30pm in the Church in English. Child care will be available.

Marriage Retreat in Spanish focusing on Theology of the Body presented by Fr. Espinosa and Luis and Marta Oseguera will occur on January 9th from 6pm to 10pm in the Church. Child care available, 5pm Mass moves to 4pm that weekend to accommodate the retreat.

Parish Mission will be hosted on the topic of Mercy in February. The Spanish speaker is Pablo Bayona and will occur on Friday and Saturday, February 26th and 27th. The English speaker is Stephen Binz and will occur on Sunday and Monday, February 28th and 29th.

Next year we will have potentially over 1400 students in Religious Education so we are exploring the facilities being able to accommodate year round formation instead of semester long formation. Options will be considered based on numbers, ages of participants etc.

Liturgy and Worship – Kathleen Reed

The Nicaraguan community will host a celebration after the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception to share their cultural celebration and home altars.

The 8am Mass is moving to 7:45am to accommodate parking and overflow considerations between the 8am and 10am Masses.

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Masses will be celebrated at Midnight Dec. 12 and at noon.

The Church will be decorated on Dec. 4 and Dec. 22 starting at 9am. We are asking that all ministries invite people to discern serving as ministers at the Sunday and Holy day Masses.

Parish Life

Vocation Chalice recipients are going well although there tends to be more recipients for English speaking Mass compared to the Spanish. This is due to non-Spanish speaking coordinators of the ministry. An effort to reach out with sign-up table after Spanish Masses is planned.

There was a good response for the reception to honor Sr. Anita on her 50th Anniversary 10/25

Mornings with MSGR – have had as many 80 men in attendance.

The Knights of Columbus have raised \$1,200 to be given to the seminarian fund.

Social Outreach

Haiti ministry collected \$24,975. Another trip is scheduled for March 2016 and the school we sponsor will have their first graduating class in 2017.

Group in Canada will match donations for children's playground.

The SVdP Society is coordinating a toy drive for people to receive 12/19. Recipients of the Love Tree will have Life Teen students distribute to gifts on 12/20. The Society will receive \$1,362.68 from parish festival.

Food Pantry served 952 households since September and a total of \$4,261 individuals. Mercy Hospital provided flu shots and approx. 90 have been given.

Funeral Ministry Three funeral dinners provided with 9 servers and 30 volunteers bringing side dishes

Respect Life Council will sponsor NWA's first March for Life on 1/22/16. March will begin with 8:15 Mass at St. Joseph-F and then have a rosary procession walk 2.9 miles to the Planned Parenthood abortion center. Free consultations service for difficult bioethical decisions is available through the National Catholic Bioethics Center – (215) 877-2660 or www.ncbcenter.org. This information will also be posted on our web site.

Year of Mercy and Liturgical celebrations/events

Judene Kuszak reported on Pope Francis' Year of Mercy which will begin 12/8/15. St. Vincent will celebrate bi-lingual Mass at 6:30pm. There will also be a special **Blessings of the Doors of Mercy**. Parishioner Kas Taylor is volunteering his time and talent of hand carving of the doors.

Plans for handouts on catechesis activities in which families can participate. Topics such as Growing in Faith, and the Corporal Works and Spiritual Works of Mercy will be included.

There are also plans for a video series, www.helpthemreturn.com which included speakers such Aux Bishop Barren and Scot Hahn.

All were encouraged to read Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus* [The Face of Mercy]. Judene also suggested Return of the Prodigal Son – Henry Nowen

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, events begin 12/11, with a procession at 7pm, liturgical dance, and a Mass at Midnight. There will be a noon Mass on the feast day, 12/12. All are encouraged to attend this beautiful multi-cultural celebration.

March 4 will be a Deanery wide Day of Lenten Recollection and Reconciliation.

Deaconate Program

Deacon Ronnie reported on the "Come and See" deaconate meeting that was held Tuesday, 11/17 at St. Raphael. Approximately 50 men attended Tuesday evening's meeting and 21 were from St. Vincent! There is a 9 month discernment process before the next class will be selected in September 2016.

NEXT MEETING – February 16, 2016. Come to meeting with ideas for budget.