

PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Members Present

Frank Hernandez
Dot Hernandez
Luis Porchini
Blanca Porchini
Carlos Ortega
Julie Moentk
Jaime Hernandez
Anna Lucas

Members Absent

Bea Tovar
Catarino Portillo
Julia Portillo

Staff Present

Father Ray Ritari
Rosita Espericueta
Patrick McGowan

Father Ray began the meeting at 6:30 with a prayer.

Agenda

1. Finances
2. Latinos – Catholic Church future
3. Parish Evangelization
4. New Associate Pastor

Finances

Patrick prefaced his finance presentation stating that the parish has been having problems with QuickBooks and One Vision. They are no longer compatible. In January 2015, Servant Keeper was installed. It is compatible with Quickbooks. However, the system crashed because it was infected with Malware. The parish had to purchase three new servers.

He distributed the Profit and Loss from the previous year comparison. He stated that the parish is down \$21,000 in the first quarter (January thru March). He said the weekly plate collection is down from last year. Discussion ensued about the parish's income and the reasons the income is down besides the weekly plate collection. Patrick reiterated that the parish had to purchase the three new servers and these will be depreciated.

He stated that he will be emailing the budget to the Council and would like a quick response of agree or disagree with the budget or questions on it. (Please respond within 5 days of receiving budget).

Latinos in the Catholic Church

Father Ray spoke on a study conducted by Boston College on Latinos in the Catholic Church. He attended a meeting at the diocesan pastoral center with Dr. Ospino Hosffman who made presentations to priest and laity at different meetings. Fr. Ray handed out notes from the Hispanic Parish Ministry. (See notes attached.) Dr. Hosffman says that by the year 2050, the church in the United States will be 65% Hispanic.

Dr. Hosffman feels we need to focus on

- Adult faith formation
- Youth faith formation
- Catholic schools
- Finances

The study stated that to reach the Latino population, there needs to be a stronger faith formation program.

Parish Evangelization

We need to focus on adult formation to further our evangelization efforts. No problem with people going door to door as long as they have a packet of information.

New Associate Pastor

We will have an associate pastor coming to St. Matthew's. His name is Fr. Gerardo Barmasse. He is a priest with the Holy Cross order and ministered for 38 years in Chile (spent a short time in Peru). He will join Fr. Ray in ministry in July.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on June 10 at 6:30

The meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Boston College/Hispanic Parish Ministry

A Few Notes

The future of the Catholic Church in the United States is a largely Hispanic future. There are now 29.7 million Hispanic Catholics in United States.

In 1980, Hispanics represented 25% of the US Catholic population and 50% of all parishes served Hispanic populations.

Now, Hispanics are 40% of US Catholics and growing and now 25% of all parishes in United States serve Hispanics.

70% of the 35.5% of all Catholic parishes that serve a particular racial, ethnic, or cultural community other than Euro-Asian Catholics serve Hispanics.

THE FIRST PARISHES in what is now the United States were all Hispanic. Catholic churches have been celebrating the sacraments for decades in what is now Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Florida.

The Hispanic parish has often been a place of ENCUENTRO or ENCOUNTER for different nationalities making the name more appropriately "Pan-Hispanic national parish." Hispanic communities by and large did not become clones of their Anglo counterparts but developed alongside them.

THE PARISH

The average for Mass attendance on weekends in parishes with Hispanic ministry is 1000 parishioners compared to 750 in all parishes.

People who live in densely populated areas may see the parish as a source of real community in a culture that is otherwise not conducive to an experience of community. The suburbs are not known for their community spirit, urban neighborhoods tend to experience greater social mobility and their populations are more transient.

Apostolic movements such as the charismatic renewal, Cursillo, Legion of Mary, etc. are important in Hispanic parishes.

These groups are signs of new life and need to be better integrated into the life of the parish.

It is interesting that the survey shows the Feast of OLG is the second most well attended liturgical celebration after a Holy Week, which was not the case in the church in United States 30 years ago.

The higher the percentage of Hispanic persons attending Mass in the parish, the smaller the total of collections and expenses. This is due to the fact that Hispanic Catholics as a group are less affluent than European Catholics.

63% of the parishes that have Hispanic ministry usually have more than one priest at the parish and one of these priests is likely to be Hispanic himself.

The average age of pastors working in Hispanic ministry is 58 years old. 60% of Hispanic deacons were ordained after the year 2000 and 25% ordained after 2010. Priests and other hired ministers tend to be younger than their non-Hispanic counterparts since the Hispanic population is younger.

68% of pastors doing ministry in Spanish ministry were born in the United States and only 10% of these pastors identify as Hispanic. 69% report that they are proficient in Spanish. How do they minister to a Spanish-speaking flock? And what does "Proficient" mean?

97% of permanent deacons serving in the Spanish ministry speak Spanish and 66% also serve the English speaking communities. Deacons in parishes with both Spanish and English speaking communities are the linchpin for successful parish ministry.

Directors of religious education/other hired ministers.....The average salary of a parish director of Hispanic ministry is \$17,449. 21% of directors of religious education are volunteers. The average salary for those who are paid is \$21,218.

Those involved in Hispanic ministry at top level positions of diocesan and parish leadership, are non-Hispanic white.

10% of active bishops are Hispanic.

22% of pastors, 33% of all priests, diocesan and religious, and 42% of women religious are doing Hispanic ministry in parishes that identified as Hispanic.

Only four in 10 parishes with Hispanic ministry have formal programs to minister specifically to Hispanic youth. Hispanic youth are the church now and the church of the future in this country. Where will we receive vocations? How will they come to know the faith? Who will walk with them in a culture that is something less than attentive to the dictates of the gospel?

The fact that many non-Hispanics are fully committed to Hispanic ministry reveals in many ways a great sense of mutuality and care in ministry.

Pope Francis reminds us that the culture of encounter is a two-way street. Until we have more pastoral leaders who are of Hispanic origin, overseeing ministries that are not focused on Hispanic populations we may miss the point. It is not just us established Europeans who should help the native born and immigrant Hispanic population. They have help to give us; we have things to learn from them. Until this is understood, the danger of paternalism exists.

Even if immigration stopped tomorrow, Hispanics would still be the future of the church in this country. If the church spent as much attention on cultivating the faith of Hispanics as it does on fighting the culture wars (gay marriage, abortion, contraception, etc.), debating who should be denied communion and the quality of the translation of the Roman Missal, the future of the church in this country would assuredly be more promising.

The report out of Boston College concludes that the spirit is moving in the Hispanic community in this country.