

ST. MATTHEW PARISH AND FINANCE COUNCILS MEETING

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Members Present

Julie Moentk
Carlos Ortega
José Mendoza
Patricia Alamillo
Catarino Portillo
Julia Portillo
Dot Hernandez
Frank Hernandez
Israel Elizalde
Luis Porchini
Blanca Porchini
Jaime Hernandez
Hector Rivas
Anna Lucas

Staff Present

Father Ray Ritari
Rosita Espericueta

Members Absent

Bea Tovar
Chris Fleischman

Rosita began the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer.

Capital Campaign Proposals

- A. Shade structures for patio area outside of church.
- B. School/old cafeteria window replacements
- C. Parish/school signs
- D. Video for overflow Spanish Masses in old cafeteria.

Father Ray began by speaking about the capital campaign proposals. The first was the shade structures for the patio area outside of the church. He asked Rosita about the findings of the cost for this proposal. She stated that she emailed the proposal to the Councils. Rosita stated that the cost of the shade structure for the patio went up from \$15,000 to \$33,000. She continued saying that USA Sunports would be the parish on Thursday to give an estimate. They installed the existing shade structure that is in the plaza. The Councils discussed purchasing free standing umbrellas, which would be less expensive, but their life span will be shorter than the more expensive shade structure. Julie volunteered to check into the cost of various types of free-standing umbrellas. This item would be discussed at the next meeting.

The second item, the outside windows in the school and the cafeteria, was discussed Rosita stated that blocking up the windows would be the most expensive. It was suggested to her that

metal framing would be less expensive, about \$900 per window. Another suggestion was to do foam insulation which would be about \$20-\$30 a window.

Israel described the block replacement. There was a question regarding City code compliance Israel also suggested installing dual pane windows. Rosita will check with Catholic Mutual Insurance. Rosita will also check with the insurance company regarding the church tiles. The church tiles need replacing because during rain storms the roof leaked. The roof has been replaced, but not the tiles inside the church.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting pending the outcome of the insurance findings.

The third item, parish/school signs, was discussed. Rosita stated that the sign she looked into would be between \$5,000 - \$10,000. Hector offered to build the sign. It was decided to go ahead with the parish/elementary school signs, to be located at the northeast and northwest corners of the church.

At this point, Father Ray asked that everyone introduce themselves as there were new members present.

New Second Collections

Father Ray stated the the new second collections have begun. They are:

- Human trafficking prevention/Sisters of the Divine Savior, San Diego California
- Queen of Heaven Missionaries/Philippines/rehabilitation of women caught in prostitution.
- Life Choices Womens' Clinic - Phoenix
- No Más Muertes/No More Deaths - Humanitarian organization here in Phoenix who assist people crossing the border from Central America/Mexico into the United States. They have a number of food and water stations in the desert when people find themselves to be in dire need. There is an ongoing program to replenish the stations.

These collections will have their own envelope when the 2016 envelopes are distributed to parishioners in early December. In the meantime, each of these collections will be retroactive, beginning in August, even though parishioners have been giving generously to each for many years.

July 2014 – June 2015 Pastoral Report

Father Ray stated that there are:

- 1,470 families or single households registered. Up from 800 registered.
- 224 adults, teens and children were registered for the catechetical program. For 2015-16, in family catechesis, there are 150 students registered
- A new social justice group was established. The name of the group is known as ‘PIT’ or Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) in honor of Pope John XXIII’s encyclical written in 1963.

- Parish nursing home communion services by four teams continues weekly
- Visitors of the bereaved created
- Materials for baptism preparation teams were updated
- Parish Youth Group (YES...Youth Empowered to Serve) collected over 221 cases of water and donated to Andre House.
- Sacraments celebrated: baptism – 85; Confirmations -104; First Eucharist 104; Weddings – 9; Annulments – 0; funerals – 12; Communion/sick calls – 150.

He stated that the following renovations occurred during the spring/summer of 2015:

- A. Renovation of Bathrooms
- B. Classroom door locks replaced
- C. New carpet in kindergarten classroom
- D. Church roof replaced (grant). Now waiting to have interior church acoustic ceiling tiles replaced due to water damage (insurance).
- E. Catechetical Center repainted.
- F. Church pews refinished.
- G. New kneelers will be ordered soon.

New Eucharistic Chapel (Santo Toribio Romo) created for Eucharistic Adoration. This was created in honor/celebration of the 75th anniversary of the parish.

Daily Sacrament of Reconciliation was begun in June/Monday through Thursdays at 5:30 PM. **Daily Mass in Spanish** was begun in June/Monday through Thursday at 6 PM followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 6:30 PM to 10 PM. Daily Mass in English continues Monday through Thursday at 8:15 AM. School Mass is every Wednesday at 8 AM.

Committee to plan "Year of Mercy," proclaimed by Pope Francis, beginning in December of 2015 was discussed.

Discussion about adult education with Pope Francis' new encyclical regarding the care of creation, "Laudato Si" or "Praised Be" (to you, O God).

FINANCE UPDATE:

Paola Pescador who has been assisting in the finance/development office has been awarded a full scholarship to ASU Law School. She will be leaving full time employment with St. Matthew's and will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Blanca Porchini, a highly qualified teacher and parishioner, will now take over Ms. Pescador's position. Mrs. Porchini will be assisting Mr. McGowan 20 hours in the finance/development office and will be teaching in the 5th and 6th grades. She will work with the administration of the Woodcock/Muñoz (Spanish Language proficiency) & Azella (English Language Proficiency) testing. She will also teach Math and Language Arts in Spanish on the 5th

grade level and Language Arts in Spanish on the 6th grade level. She will also tutor non Spanish speakers.

Mr. Mike Morris, one of two new Jesuit Volunteers assigned to St. Matthew's (JV's have been part of the life of the school for approx. 25 years), will be taking over the duties of the computers - and other matters. Mike comes from Philadelphia. He will be checking on problems that have been submitted by work orders and track work orders with AIM, our technology support.

We have received the following tax credit scholarships for students as of this date:

1. Catholic Education Arizona \$109,000 (First of 4 payments)
2. TOPS (Arizona) \$33,600.00 (Full payment).
3. We are expecting from Brophy \$175,000 after Labor Day (Full Payment)
4. We are expecting from AAA (Florida) the sum of \$75,000 after Labor Day (First of 4 payments).

Report on the opening of the school year.

Current enrolment: 217 students. Kinder is at capacity and First Grade has 29 students. Good news for the future!

School Staff: Five teachers (four and the Principal) are beginning their 10th year at St Matthew School. Makeup of the faculty/Administration is 7 Hispanic 9 Anglo. This is quite a change from 10 years ago!

All teachers are certified either in the United States or in Mexico.

Five have Master's degrees and obviously all are college/university graduates. The school also has one full time Spanish-speaking aide along with parent volunteers and a Spanish speaking secretary.

School Curriculum: Dual language K-4, 50% of the day, 5th grade two subjects in Spanish (Language Arts and Math), 6th Grade, and 1 subject in Spanish: Language Arts.

Five of the dual-language staff members traveled to Massachusetts for the third summer in a row to obtain further training in dual language instruction.

The TWIN network (Two-way immersion network) is headed by a nationally recognized professor of language acquisition process, Dr. Patricia Wetzel, and St Matthew is one of the original ten schools in the country selected to join the network. It has now grown to almost twenty schools and includes a famous school whose population is almost exclusively African American and their second language is Mandarin Chinese

We have two new Jesuit Volunteers, one from Pennsylvania and one from Missouri. They both appear enthusiastic and competent.

Mr. Mike Morris is from Philadelphia and will be involved with the Loyola Project (after school tutoring with Brophy Jesuit High School students), computers, and physical education/coaching.

Ms. Lindsey Van Oyden, an education specialist is from Missouri. She will be substituting, tutoring, testing, and also involved with the Loyola project out of Brophy Jesuit High School.

Mr. McGowan is working many extra hours to make sure that we are ready to implement the iPads in EVERY classroom right after Labor Day.

Our school website has been completely redesigned thanks to a volunteer and it is maintained by Paola Pescador (who now works part time on just website upkeep and promotional materials).

Blanca Porcini has joined the staff in light of Mrs. Guzman's (First Grade) battle with cancer. Miss Contreras, last year's part time teacher, is now full time in first/second grade, English.

The school re-accreditation visit has been set for the last week of February. The staff is busy working on the self-study.

The faculty will once again offer Study Hall after school on Monday-Thursday to help students finish their homework WITH MUCH NEEDED SUPERVISION.

We will have art one day per week thanks to Ms. Angie Watts, a retired high school art teacher, and choir two days per week, thanks to Ms. Christine Dermalian. Catholic Church of the Ascension in Fountain Hills provides their stipends. We also hope to once again offer "Dancing Classrooms".

The members of the Christ Child Society will continue to come on campus monthly to offer "Book Buddies" to students in 4th and 5th grade

The volunteers from Ascension (Fountain Hills) and St Patrick (Scottsdale) Parishes will continue to come on Thursdays to tutor our students who struggle academically.

PRE-SCHOOL

Mrs. McGowan, Fr. Ritari, and Rosita Espericueta met with the Diocesan Director of Bldgs. and Properties in late May regarding the possibility of starting a pre-school. The former convent, now the faith formation center, would be ideal. However, that bldg. needs to be profoundly brought up to city code. The other possibility is to move the school library (on the bottom floor of the parish office bldg. to the computer lab and forming a "media center." The library could then be used as a small pre-school. However, with the accreditation of the school in full swing, we will need to revisit the formation of a pre-school until the fall of 2016.

The NEXT PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR: SEPTEMBER 23 AT 6:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.