St. Anne’s Pastoral Council Meeting

May 16, 2013

In attendance: Father Brandon Ware, Fr. Bill Kraft, Deacon Greg Yeager, Annette Murdaca, Joan Cahill, Donna Dominguez, Cheri Evans, Cristina Herrera, Laura Sandoval, Saul Molina

The meeting opened with Adoration, Evening Prayer, and Benediction in the chapel.

The business meeting began with the request from Council Chairperson, Annette Murdaca, for the approval as-written of the April minutes.

The minutes were approved as written.

Finance Council Report: Tom Driscoll unable to attend/no report

Committee Reports:

Thornton Report: Laura Sandoval reported that they recently had a Council Meeting where Deacon Greg Yeager presented the architect’s three phase construction/renovation plan for Mater Ecclesiae Church.

Phase 1: Construction of a capella (small chapel) to be home for the statue of Our Lady of Fatima which is currently located in the church. Originally it was thought that this would be constructed as a grotto-like structure, but to the delight of their council, it is a small building designed to serve not only as a place of veneration for Our Lady but as a “house of prayer” as well. Since the structure is no longer a “grotto,” a discussion of names for the capella ensued and Casa de Oracion seemed to be favored. Construction of the capella is slated to be completed in time for the annual Our Lady of Fatima Celebration/Portuguese Festa in October.

Phase 2: Renovation of the church

Phase 3: Development of the grounds, landscaping, and plaza area surrounding the church.

Funding of the project: Laura reported that they currently have $100,000 raised toward the estimated cost of $150,000 anticipated for the project. Annette Murdaca suggested that the construction plans be presented to obtain donation from the Portuguese farmers in the area prior to the commencement of construction. Fr. Brandon offered to accompany representatives from Mater Ecclesiae for this purpose. Cristina Herrera suggested as a fundraiser to have a multi-cultural food festival that included foods from all nationalities of parishioners attending Mater Ecclesiae. Fr. Bill Kraft suggested that the cost for the popular
candles that are currently being sold at the church be raised from $3 to $4. Saul Molina suggested that they add the sale of a 9-day Novena candle for $10 and that an accompanying brochure be developed that explained the project. Laura said that she would work on the brochure and Fr. Bill agreed to investigate the 9-day candle. Random suggestions included development of a display of the project at the entrance of the church for parishioners to view and to have an opportunity to make a donation and also a tote board to indicate the financial goal and contributions.

*Motion for approval of project*: Saul Molina made the motion to approve the project at Mater Ecclesiae provided it did not exceed $150,000. Cheri Evans seconded the motion. Annette Murdaca pronounced the motion approved.

*In order to allow time for the discussion and approval of the Thornton Project this evening, the following reports were not given:*

**Petal Ministry**: No report

**Youth Ministry Report**: No report

**Pastor’s Report**

*Community Plaza Project*: Annette Murdaca reported that the first meeting of the Fundraising Committee had been held. The Parish capital campaign is currently slated to kick off in the Fall. Fr. Brandon indicated that prior to the campaign kickoff, he would like to have already raised 70% ($770,000) of the $1.2 million needed to fund the project. Annette announced that prior to the campaign the Council and Ministry Team will be given a date by which they must indicate their financial contribution to the project. She asked us to think and pray about this. Currently there is $360,000 in the project coffers. The Mexican- American Catholic Federation is still purposing a matching donation of $100,000. The project is anticipated to break ground during Easter, 2014. Fr. Brandon also indicated changing the name from Community Plaza to something with a more spiritual nature yet inviting to the whole Lodi community. The idea of a contest was suggested.

Joan Cahill expressed that the plaza need not only be a reflection of St. Anne’s as a parish united in prayer but the greater Lodi Community united in prayer also. She purposed the idea of dedicating a wall or pathway for which the Lodi Community (not just St. Anne’s parishioners) could have a share in the plaza by purchasing a plaque that indicates they value the power of prayer. Cristina Herrera added to this idea suggesting that there be a tree as an
art-piece dedicated to prayer and that the public can purchase leaves with their name engraved on them.

*Annie’s Drop In Center:* Fr. Brandon shared with us his dismay over the cost to bring the building for the drop in center up to ADA code. A very rough estimate of $30,000 was stated by Deacon Greg Yeager. Due to it being cost prohibitive, the project is currently tabled at this time. Fr. Brandon expressed that he is still dedicated to the idea of a drop-in center because of its need and asked that we all pray.

**Best Practices in Parish Stewardship:** The council engaged in a discussion of the first two chapters in the book recommended by Fr. Brandon, each sharing what stood out to them in their reading. Joan Cahill shared with us thoughts and ideas that came to her during a recent prayer time after reading from the book. She suggested making praying for one another a St. Anne’s tradition and that our practice of prayer partners on Name Tag Sunday should extend to the school, CCD, and all other programs and ministries in our Parish, even exchange names with people from other churches in Lodi. It was suggested that she take this idea to the Faith Petal through On-going Adult Faith Formation. She agreed to do so. Annette reminded us to read and reflect on Chapters 3 & 4 before next month’s meeting.

The next meeting will be June 20, 2013 at 7:00PM.

The meeting closed in prayer lead by Cristina Herrera.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cheri Evans.