

**Church of the Incarnation
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 10, 2018**

Present: Fr. Gregory, Brent Browning, Heidi Brown, Jose Cuenca, Jerry Hendrick, Jose Luis Hernandez, Elaine McGrath, Ed Robinson and Laure Taylor

(Absent: Fr. Jaime, Caroline Cook, Rich DiMeglio, Jan Ferrance, Carole Hatcher, Michael Macfarlan, Roxana Roblero)

I. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm

II. Opening Prayer

Jose Cuenca opened with prayer and Council read the Vision Statement.

III. Pastor's Report -- Fr. Gregory

- **Bishop's Visit** --The Bishop will celebrate Mass at Incarnation on Tuesday, Jan. 23. He should be addressed as "Your Excellency." A new sound system with plug-in microphone will be in place by that time. Patrick has arranged for youth "ambassadors" to help direct visitors around the parish that evening. Anna Sisman is preparing a Welcome Basket to be presented to the Bishop by four youth representatives at Incarnation.
- **Carpet Replacement** -- A generous parishioner has offered to pay for replacing the carpeting in the sanctuary. Izzy is looking at different options, which may include carpeting and flooring.
- **Prayer for Christian Unity** -- Rescheduled for Jan. 31 at Incarnation with Pastor Lauren Miller of Peace Lutheran Church. Evening prayer will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a reception and fellowship.
- **Teen Retreat** -- Fr. Gregory is offering a 23-hour retreat -- Inner Life -- that he developed for teens to expose them to our rich tradition of contemplative prayer. The first retreat will be for boys and will be held April 27-28 at the Trappistine cabins at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Crozet.

IV. Special Speaker Event -- Laure Taylor

Laure is working with Kurt Elward on securing a speaker from "Dynamic Catholic" to visit Incarnation on Friday, May 18. The speaker, Alan Hunt, would address the topic "Becoming Your Best Self." It likely will cost \$25 to attend the event from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. and would include materials to take home. Dynamic Catholic will help with advertising.

V. Chair's Report -- Ed Robinson for Caroline Cook

- **Well Wishes for Caroline** -- The absence of our Pastoral Council Chair, Caroline Cook, was noted. We pray for her speedy recovery following surgery.

- **Christmas Mass Attendance** -- More than 4,000 people attended the Masses during Christmas season (Dec. 23-Jan. 1). That includes more than 1,000 who attended the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass alone! Chip Grobmeyer should be commended for setting up a wonderful sound system and new screen in the overflow space.
- **Bishop's Visit** -- A committee has been formed to plan for the Jan. 23 Mass, which all Pastoral Council members should attend. Rich DiMeglio is coordinating the planning. This involves four parts :
 - Hospitality -- Patrick is arranging for the youth ambassadors. Jen Kowalski is organizing the post-Mass reception from 8-9:00 p.m. A receiving line will be held in the Parish Hall.
 - Crowd Control -- Izzy has arranged for police officers to be posted at each of the church's entrances to direct traffic.
 - Liturgy -- Deacon Chris is arranging space for con-celebrants (number is unknown at this time). Also young ushers are encouraged to serve to showcase our youth.
 - Communication -- Heidi is reaching out to the other parishes invited to attend. She is also creating an Event Page for Incarnation's Facebook account to publicize the event and coordinating media coverage with the Diocesan office of communications. A good photo opportunity would be the presentation of the Welcome Basket.
- **Incarnation in Action Series** -- Ed discussed this new idea to showcase a different ministry each Pastoral Council meeting and the good works being done at Incarnation. The 15-minute briefing would follow a set of standard questions that helps the ministry leader describe what it does, who it impacts and how it puts Incarnation's Vision Statement into action through its work.
 - PACEM Ministry -- Tom Eckman kicked off the first "Incarnation in Action" series by talking about this ministry. Incarnation has offered shelter to the homeless for two weeks each year since 2005. All hosting services, food and materials are donated by parishioners. Up to 42 men have been served at a time. The 2018 schedule will include a "Witness talk" one evening in October to help Incarnation's PACEM team raise funds to host our guests.
- **Evening of Reflection** -- Will take place Saturday, Feb. 3, right after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. This is intended to "feed ourselves so we can feed others." There will be a short break with finger food before the mini retreat begins at 7:00 p.m. It will end at 9:00 p.m. Ed urged us to attend and to personally invite others. Door prizes will be offered to help track attendance. Ed is seeking council members to help with food, and serve as Ambo announcers and greeters.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Jose Cuenca closed with prayer

VII. Next Meeting Dates

Executive Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m. on Thurs., Jan. 25, at Lampo Neopolitan Pizzeria, 205 Monticello Rd, Charlottesville
 Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 7, at Incarnation

Respectfully submitted,
 Heidi Brown, Secretary