

**Church of the Incarnation
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 9, 2019**

Present: Fr. Gregory, Meg Bojarski, Heidi Brown, Caroline Cook, Jose Cuenca, Rich DiMeglio, Jan Ferrance, Carole Hatcher, Jerry Hendrick, Jose Luis Hernández, Elaine McGrath, Laure Taylor and Ed Robinson

(Absent: Fr. Jaime, Brent Browning, Stephenie Draushak, Roxana Roblero)

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm**
- II. Opening Prayer**
 - Jose Luis opened with prayer and Council read the Vision Statement.
- III. Pastor's Report -- Fr. Gregory**
 - **Christian Unity** -- Matt Tennant, the pastor of University Baptist Church, will join Fr. Gregory for an evening prayer service at Incarnation at 7:00 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 23. Reception will follow.
 - **Diocesan Priest Council** -- Each Deanery has a representative on the Priest's Council. Fr. Gregory was elected to represent our Deanery.
 - **Forty-Hour Devotion** -- An old-fashioned Catholic practice. We are doing it again in the context of praying for our wounded church. Begins Wednesday, Jan. 30, with 12:15pm Mass. Concludes with 7:30am Mass on Friday, Feb. 1. Church will be open for prayer through the day.
 - **Men's Breakfast** -- All males are invited, any age and any faith, to a church breakfast provided by the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, Jan. 26. Starts at 8:30am and will be over by 10am. Tom Eckman will share his testimony with the group. There will be song and prayer, too.
 - **Santa Claus Conundrum** -- Fr. Gregory said he is worried that perpetuating the Santa Claus myth may lead to a mediocrity in faith. "We are told Santa Claus is real, and that Jesus is real. And then that Santa Claus is fake." One may start to think that Jesus is a myth, too. "Isn't the word made flesh enough magic for us?" Carole suggested a summer event to discuss this topic and then a refresher for Advent.
- IV. Deanery Visit -- Caroline Cook**

Pastoral Council members took time to respond to a self-assessment questionnaire sent by Fr. Joseph Mary in advance of his Feb. 22 visit. About 50-60 people representing the leadership of all the churches in the Deanery are expected to attend the meeting at Incarnation next month.
- V. Finance Council Update -- Ed Robinson**
 - **Three Priorities:** Donor Analysis; Advise Pastor on Best Uses for Living our Mission Funds; and Funded Plan to Keep Incarnation Safe, Comfortable and Attractive.
 - **New Members:** Council added three people and is now at a total of seven members.

- **Donor Analysis Work Stream** -- Spearheaded by Joe Feola. Short-term objective is to understand if there is something about our donor base that has a built-in vulnerability that we have to be aware of.
- **Special Gifts** -- Donors contributed the following to the parish:
 - Hymals (\$10k)
 - New flooring in Worship Center and Stone Chapel (\$35k)
 - Rectory mortgage paid in full (\$97k)
 - Church mortgage reduced over time (\$53k)

VI. Chair's Report -- Caroline Cook

- **Listening Project:** Timetable will be pushed back. She is feeling uncertain about moving forward immediately with the listening project. Still believes that we would be well served by talking to our parishioners about what is on their minds. Caroline will continue to work with Laura Brown about how to organize these listening sessions.

VII. Church Publicity -- Heidi Brown

- **Banners** -- Discussed how to design and display banners for best visibility. Also how to recycle them once the event is over. Jose Luis/Laure will look into more permanent posts.
- **Marketing/Ads** -- Heidi suggested placing an ad in the Daily Progress Easter weekend insert for more publicity. Rich suggested there may be more of a cost benefit for paying for a Google ad. Someone will look into it.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Jose Luis closed with prayer

IX. Next Meeting Dates

Executive Council, 10:30 a.m., Feb. 1, at Incarnation

Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Feb. 13, at Incarnation

(Jan-opening prayer/Laure Taylor-snack)

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Brown, Secretary