

**Church of the Incarnation  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
March 13, 2019**

**Present:** Fr. Gregory, Fr. Jaime, Meg Bojarski, Heidi Brown, Caroline Cook, Jose Cuenca, Rich DiMeglio, Stephenie Drauschak, Jan Ferrance, Carole Hatcher, Jose Luis Hernández, Roxana Roblero and Laure Taylor

*(Absent: Brent Browning, Jerry Hendrick and Elaine McGrath)*

- I. **Meeting called to order at 7:00pm**
- II. **Opening Prayer/Reflection - Heidi Brown**
- III. **Pastor's Report -- Fr. Gregory**
  - **Impact Rally:** Incarnation's own Sheila Herlihy delivered an incredible speech. The housing situation is so outrageous in our area. Some spend more than half of their income on housing. We need to stand up. He urged attendance at the Nehemiah Action on April 11, 6:30p.m., at the Martin Luther King Center for Performing Arts.
  - **Prison Ministry:** Fr. Gregory and parishioner Carl Stacy have been meeting with Joseph Varaksa, chaplain of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail, about having a Catholic ministry in the jails.
  - **Lenten Observances:** Father talked about the Reconciliation Mass, which was to have 10 confessors, a record number, and able to offer the sacrament in both English and Spanish. Another Lenten activity was the Taizé Prayer Service, a type of monastic Christian worship.
  - **Catholic Students:** Fr. Gregory gave a talk to Catholic students at Randolph Macon and Longwood University about "Finding God in the Ordinary."
  - **Holy Land Pilgrimage:** He needed 20 people to go on the pilgrimage in November. The deadline for deposits was March 20.
- IV. **Vicar's Report -- Fr. Jaime**
  - **Holy Land Pilgrimage:** Fr. Jaime is also leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in September in Spanish. The trip also requires 20 to travel. He said some of those who wish to go may have difficulty obtaining the necessary documents for visas and passports.
  - **Spanish Mass Anniversary:** Required much work by many hands, but was a huge success. There was food, pictures, a video, and t-shirts representing each country. Jose Luis said the event demonstrated a great show of unity at our church for the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. "There may be different languages, but our faith is the same language for all."
  - **Rite of Election:** Fr. Jaime accompanied 17 catechumens to the Rite of Election Mass on March 9 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond. Bishop Knestout presided.
  - **Youth Walk:** The Hispanic youth will embark on their annual walk in the mountains the weekend of April 12-13. Fr. Jaime is preparing for the event, which involves prayer, hiking and sacrifice. In the past, 75 youth have attended, ranging in age from 12 to 22.

## V. **Chair's Report -- Caroline Cook**

- **Nehemiah Action**: Caroline and her daughter, Elizabeth, will help Fr. Gregory with Mass announcements about what this is leading up to the April event.
- **Deanery Visit**: Caroline said each of the 10 parishes in the Deanery presented their highlights and challenges. She distributed via email a summary of her notes about the Feb. 22 gathering, which she described as "inspiring and interesting:"
  - The diocese's Mike School described the mission of the Deanery as a link between the Bishop and the parishes, especially when the Bishop can't visit every parish each year.
  - It's up to us what the Deanery becomes. There is no budget. Caroline envisioned benefits such as connecting the youth across the Deanery, as well as those at each church who hold similar roles, such as facilities coordinator, business managers, pastoral council chairs.
  - Next Deanery meeting will be held May 14 at St. Thomas. She welcomed ideas about the deanery structure.
- **Discernment Process**: Announcements will begin April 6-7 weekend seeking parishioners to discern joining Pastoral Council. She asked that current council members let her and/or Father Gregory know what our plans are for continuing. Anyone who serves on Council should be registered at Incarnation and be able to speak/understand English.

## VI. **Listening Project -- Caroline Cook**

- **Continuation of Incarnation in Action**: This is a continuation of what was started as the Incarnation in Action program to find about the wonderful work performed by the many ministries at Incarnation.
- **Ministry Leader Interviews**: Pastoral Council members each picked one of 12 ministries. We are tasked with interviewing the leader of that ministry using a set of questions we received, to "listen and learn insights and thoughts...to assist the PC with its role of providing advice to Father Gregory." We should complete our interviews by April 25 and email our responses to Caroline and Rich. They will compile them, look for trends and issues, and brief the Pastoral Council in May or June.

## VII. **New Business**

**Latino Leadership Institute**: Jose Luis talked about his participation in the Latino Leadership Institute, a program of Sacred Heart Center of Richmond. Upon completion of the three-semester, 60-hour program, participants receive a Certificate in Latino Leadership from the School of Professional and Continuing Studies of the University of Richmond. The program requires local service activities, advocacy at the General Assembly, reflection and evaluation. It runs from September 2018 to June 2019. Father Gregory will give the welcome and prayer for the graduation ceremony at Incarnation on June 24.

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

Heidi closed with prayer

## IX. **Next Meeting Dates**

Executive Council, 10:30 a.m., March 29, tbd

Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., April 9, at Incarnation

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Brown, Secretary