

**Cathedral of Immaculate Heart of Mary
Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2016
AMMENDED AND APPROVED – February 15, 2016**

Members Present: Alice Lujan, Barbara Kuchler, Ed Torres, Jan McClure, Joe Gallegos, Juliette Vigil, Luis Fong, Marta Rivera, Mary Fragoso, Oscar Vargas, Pixie Apodaca, Rose Marie Fierro, Veronica Ontiveros

Excused: Deacon Ed Misquez

President Ed Torres called the meeting to order at 7:00

Fr. Bill said an opening prayer.

Ed read the gospel which was followed with a discussion

Minutes for the November meeting were read and approved with corrections.

Old Business:

Minutes will be presented in DRAFT form; Fr. Bill and Ed will receive the final copy which will then be posted on the web.

The Sound System in our Church is in need of improvement/repair. Hubbard Sound Systems of Las Cruces has been contracted to evaluate and do the work.

A contractor will be meeting with Fr. Bill to discuss the renovations in our Church: this includes the nichos for the Statues of our Blessed Mother Mary and Jesus, the renovations on the altar, (possible carpet replacement, etc.) A discussion was held on where the painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe might be placed, as the statue will be placed there. Additionally, there is a need to find a place for our Divine Mercy painting as well, (the space where it presently is will be needed as Easter functions take place).

Perhaps our BIG remodeling venture, as per the model/picture we have on display will come to fruition in the not too distant future. Fr. Bill explained how our Cathedral budget, our UIM rebate, and tax incentives might allow this to become a reality for us. The realization of this venture is possible because of careful and responsible budgeting and excellent financial planning which is taking place at our Cathedral...all blessings of exemplary leadership.

Clergy Update: A retired priest from El Paso has been identified as a possible assistant at IHM. Medical needs are preventing him from beginning immediately. There is also a possibility that a Nigerian priest might be able to come to assist IHM starting in February. Ed Torres and Oscar Vargas will schedule another appointment with Bishop Cantu to revisit with him about our **urgent** need to get help for Fr. Bill.

Ed gave a progress report on our Living the Eucharist initiative which will begin soon. Interested individuals are to begin signing up for small group sessions after all January 17th and 24th Masses.

Our Parish Council Bylaws were reviewed and discussed.

New Business:

IHM's Lenten Mission will be March 20th-22nd, with Fr. John Riley.

Outreach to the Poor: In keeping with Pope Francis' initiatives for the Year of Mercy, Fr. Bill sponsored a BBQ for the needy this past fall. The event was very successful; about 150 persons attended. Fr. Bill would like to sponsor another similar BBQ in the Spring. Additionally, Fr. would like to initiate a service that would improve ministering to our needy when financial assistance is given, by scheduling time to pray and visit with these persons, with the belief that this will be inspirational and healing to all involved. Training to be involved in this ministry would take place prior to its initiation. Along these lines, it was reported that individuals who receive help from our St. Vincent de Paul fund are now assisted on a once a year basis. It was recommended to consider making this a once a lifetime assistance, as there are other agencies who can help these persons. This would allow for assisting a larger number of individuals.

Upcoming fundraisers that make it possible to improve and make repairs to Finley Hall are:

- Breakfast fundraiser on January 24th and another breakfast sometime in February
- Enchilada fundraiser on March 4th
- Salad Buffet fundraiser in April

There was an expression of gratitude and appreciation from Jardín de los Niños and others for the gifts provided through the 'Giving Tree'...Thank you to all involved in this successful venture.

Thank you to Jan McClure and her assistants for our beautifully decorated Church for the Christmas holidays!!

Our meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with a prayer by Fr. Bill

Respectfully submitted by Alice Lujan, Recorder