

**Cathedral of Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 15, 2016**

**Amended and Approved, March 28, 2016**

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

**Members Absent:** Veronica Ontiveros

President Ed Torres called the meeting to order at 7:15

Father Bill offered our opening prayer

Alice read the gospel which was followed with a discussion

Minutes for the January meeting were read and approved with a correction

**Old Business:**

Clergy update - Father Marcel will arrive for his assignment at IHM from California on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The retired priest from El Paso who was to have been here on January 1<sup>st</sup> had surgery/rehabilitation. His assignment at IHM may not materialize due to his health.

After a second visit with Bishop Cantú about our desperate need for help for our Rector, he reiterated that our Nigerian priest would soon be assigned to our Parish, and that a retired priest would also be assigned to IHM as early as possible. As noted above, it appears that the El Paso priest remains unable to come to IHM due to ill health. Our parish, being such a large one, is definitely in need of at least three full time priests.

Church security – Possible set up of cameras, and an evacuation plan are on hold; further information on this will come later.

Cathedral renovation update – Our crucifix is expected to arrive within two weeks. The installation of the nichos for our statues of Jesus and Our Blessed Mother is in progress. Those responsible for repairing and updating our sound system have been at work as well. There will be sound in the foyer; the sound on the altar is expected to be greatly improved. A liturgical architect from Dallas will design our remodeled altar, (including the altar, the ambo, carpet, etc). Additional discussion was held regarding the United in Ministry rebate and the remainder needed for the renovation as per our model. There is a possibility of using the blank wall where our 'Jesus' statue resided as a screen projection area. Our baptismal font will most likely remain near the altar so that baptisms can be witnessed by our congregation.

Outreach to the poor – A sample box of food, (costing about \$30), containing canned goods, dry goods such as rice and beans and other food items was presented as an example of outreach to families. This is an idea whereby perhaps one Parish family could gather such a box of food items during a one month period to be used as a donation. The suggestion to have a health fair that would be sponsored by an insurance company was introduced. A health fair such as this would offer blood pressure checks as well as other general services to those in need. Doing a

trial run for such a venture would be necessary for logistics. Mercy Saturdays, (once a month), that would involve our young adults was also presented. This outreach would be to Camp Hope and to visit individuals who are imprisoned. A BBQ in May such as one held in our recent past is also in our outreach plans. Those who qualify for our once a year St. Vincent de Paul donation will be invited more regularly to receive 'food for the soul', a sit down visit to help with spiritual/emotional/a sense of belonging needs.

Living the Eucharist – Is running smoothly and is being very well received by our participants. There was very positive feedback for the youth portion of the program as well. About 441 participants are involved in the initiative. The materials for the program are excellent. Patricia and Ed Torres are to be highly commended for their untiring, successful efforts in implementing and maintaining the program. A post Lenten, one day retreat will take place as the culmination of the program for the first of its three year plan; this will take place in April. After our initial year with the program, ideas to improve the program may be considered.

Our enchilada dinner will take place March 4<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed for that date as well as for preparation day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. Our salad luncheon will take place on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business** – There will be a deaconate program in the Fall. The updating of IHM's database is still in the plans.

Our meeting adjourned at 9:00 with a prayer from Father Bill.

Respectfully submitted by Alice Lujan, recorder.