

Minutes of 2/25/26 Parish Council Meeting

- PPC Members in attendance: Mimi Madrid, Gail Graham, Martha Zamorano, Jeff Cardell, Ed Gallagher, Fr. Juan Areiza, Jean Mense, Stephen Sheahan, and Orlando Cruz.

Opened with prayer by Fr. Juan

Pastoral Council Strategic Initiatives:

- **Increasing Council Participation & Bylaws**

Mimi reported finding several historical council files on her computer which she will forward to Gail. It included interview materials for new council members.

Gail provided a draft of a bulletin ad for new council members.

- **Supporting STA Ministries**

Jeff and Jean reported they have met twice to review how to best support ministries in the next year. They recommended the continued support for the annual workshops for the ministry leaders including the Spiritual Retreat, Idea Sharing Session, Fall Festival and the Volunteer Mass & Dinner. They recommended to work with the ministries to improve their presence on the STA web site. They also recommended discontinuing the 2-way communication between specific council members and their assigned ministries as well as the Google Document. The council asked we not discontinue until all the feedback from the ministry leaders was reviewed to insure concerns have been addressed and we identify the ministry leaders that did not attend the ministry workshops to determine ways to reach out to these leaders. Gail will forward that information to Jeff and Jean to review. They will also create a questionnaire to be distributed at the April 11 Ministry Leaders Spiritual Retreat to create an agenda for the September 26 Ministry Leaders Idea Sharing Session on best strategies and practices. There was also a suggestion to limit the number of ministries the council would contact.

Father Juan asked for suggestions on the focus of the Ministry Leaders Spiritual Retreat scheduled for April.

- **Encouraging & Increasing Communication**

No updates

- **Initiating outreach to PC's @other parishes**

The project team met on 2/17 to define a process they can use to proceed. They adopted a three step process - Collect data, document, discuss and evaluate findings, Develop and take/recommend additional actions to build beneficial partnerships across parish lines for the benefit of STA and the Archdiocese. They are focusing on answers to 3 questions:

1. What organizational processes already exist within the Archdiocese to enable parishes to share best practices, learn from others' experience, or partner to address common challenges?

2. What inter-parish connections already exist at the STA ministry level that might be extended/supported and can help shape our thinking?

3. Where would we, as a parish benefit most from additional resources, idea or opportunities to serve?

They suggested reaching out to current ministry leaders to ask if any have regular contact with other parishes today.

• Partnering with Faith Formation

Stephen reported the project team met with Abigail on 2/19 and was joined by Deacon Mike Chernick who is now working with Abigail. They are busy with addressing issues created by the change to the age of Confirmation. The council will continue to support the planning for the Aquinas Gala in 2027. They also asked for the department's immediate technology requirements. They will meet again with Abigail regarding the Adult Faith Formation plan and goals for 2026.

Pastors Update:

- Columbarium
 - Will be going forward
 - Engaged architectural firm for design. Same firm as developed plan for the church
 - Phase 1 – 320 locations
 - Future Phases will allow 1000 locations
 - Ed Gallagher expressed a concern regarding the Columbarium financial benefit to the parish which Father Juan will take back to the Finance Committee.
- Parish Finances
 - Going well this year and mass attendance is increasing

Mimi stated that the next meeting will be March 23 and future meetings to be last Wednesday of month for 2026.

End with Prayer led by Jeff Cardell