

Pastoral Council
Regular Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2005, Pending Approval
Parish Residence, 7pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. J.C. Cain, Helen Soto Knaggs, Deacon Mario Renteria, Sylvia Castro, Toni Aguirre, Al Barrette, Leo De La Garza, Salvador Hernandez, Olga Salas, Benny Sustaita
ABSENT EXCUSED: Art Cardenas, Pam Corn, Minerva Skeith, Esmeralda Rincon

- I. Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by the Chair, Helen Soto Knaggs.
- II. Opening prayer by Benny Sustaita; Mission Statement read by Toni Aguirre.
- III. Minutes of June 9, 2005 meeting were approved as written and minutes of the September 8th meeting were approved as amended, 1st Mario Renteria, 2nd Sal Hernandez. It was noted that installation of Sal Hernandez as Vice Chair, and Benny Sustaita, as new member serving out Angelica Becerra's unexpired term, was done at the pastoral council retreat on August 27. Esmeralda Rincon, a Pastor appointee, has resigned her position on council due to other commitments. Fr. J.C. requested that the nominating committee provide 2-3 recommendations for her replacement within the next two weeks. Since Art Cardenas is out of town during this time frame, Leo De La Garza offered to help the nominating committee with this duty.
- IV. PASTOR'S REPORT by Fr. J.C. Cain
 - a. As a result of new building development in the neighborhood and the influx of natural disaster evacuees, the parish is continuing its unprecedented growth, at a rate of 8-10 new families per week. Currently we have approximately 1680 families in the parish. Fr. requested that council develop an outreach welcoming packet to be distributed in the neighborhood. Mario Renteria will chair this committee, assisted by Toni Aguirre and Olga Salas.
 - b. Fr. will be offering a course to the parish, in English and Spanish, on annulments. The purpose is to dispel misinformation and common myths and to clarify the church's policies regarding divorce, annulments and re-marriage.
 - c. Fr. commended the Religious Education Program for its excellence and encourages parents or visitors to drop in and get a first-hand look. Salvador Hernandez reported that Marti Salas is inviting us to check out RE classes on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11am (Spanish), Monday nights from 6:30-8pm and Wednesday RCIA.
 - d. Fr. requested that council please be timely in responding to email correspondence between members.
 - e. The next Senior Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, at 11:30am. At the last luncheon, the seniors seemed amenable to helping the parish from their homes by making phone calls when necessary, and offering their prayers for the parish.
 - f. There was a positive response from parishioners to publishing the council minutes in the bulletin.
- V. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT by Sylvia Castro
 - a. Church boiler and air handler - Work is set to begin in late October when the equipment arrives. Modifications necessary for city permits are still in process, as well as repair of sacarium. Approximate costs are \$80,000. We have secured a diocesan loan at a good rate, with a payback period of eight years.
 - b. Staff Offices have been relocated to the first floor in order to cut energy bills. The upstairs offices will have limited usage due to expense of heating and cooling the area.
 - c. The diocese is very close to presenting us their plan for utilizing the Family Life Center.
 - d. Candidates are being interviewed for a Social Minister position for 25 hours/week. The Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, Health Ministry and Gabriel Project are still operating with the help of volunteers. However, walk-in services have been temporarily suspended.
 - e. Jamaica - Some good changes were implemented this year, such as construction of a permanent stage that was paid with Pre-Jamaica fundraising monies, the new layout and design, which allowed for better traffic flow, and better signage on booths. The marketing committee did exceptionally well in securing advertisement banners at each booth with the main stage banner donor, Physician's Health Choice, bringing in \$5000.00. Receipts are still out, but estimated Jamaica income is \$77,000 with approximate expenses of 22,000, well under the budgeted \$29,100.00 for expenses. Many thanks to Sal and Lupe Hernandez for their leadership and dedication as Jamaica Chair Persons and to all the committees and volunteers who gave so much

- of their time and creativity to the year long planning of such a large event. New volunteers came forth this year. Most of them enthused to be a bigger part of the Jamaica next year.
- f. Food Drive – The number of people visiting the food pantry has increased over the last few months. After the two hurricanes, the food bank is much depleted. Thus, we are beginning a food drive starting next weekend and going through Thanksgiving. Some of these food products will also be used for Thanksgiving baskets. Our shelves need re-stocking in preparation for the winter months and to serve the number of people we know will be needing food with the increase of fuel and other costs that will affect them. There was much discussion regarding partnering with neighboring churches to sponsor a massive, long-term food drive, but further action was tabled until we get a new Social Minister hired.
- VI. FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT by Sylvia Castro
- a. Overall, collections are still low, with a \$12,000 cumulative shortfall in meeting our budget. The 8am Mass has a high collection participation rate, but the 11:30am Mass collection is down. Leo suggested that information regarding actual collections be shared with parishioners.
 - b. Expenses that are over budget are facility utilities and insurance rates, so efforts are being made to cut expenses.
 - c. Fr. JC advised that the Diocesan Capital Campaign will be starting soon and we are being asked to increase our efforts from last year.
 - d. An approximate \$800-900 monthly payment for the church AC will commence in January, 2006.
- VII. OLD PASTORAL COUNCIL BUSINESS
- a. The special meeting of Pastoral Council scheduled for September 21st , was cancelled due to schedule conflicts.
 - b. Sunday breakfasts are booked until the end of the year. Council will target a date in January, possibly the 12th. Sal offered to provide the menudo.
 - c. Please advise Helen by October 17 if you will be attending the Annual Parish Convention, entitled “Spirituality and the Parish” to be held on November 17-19, 2005 in Fort Worth, Texas.
 - d. The stewardship classes, facilitated by Billy Atkins, are going well. Council is encouraged to attend Fr. Victor Mayorga’s (of St. Louis Parish) workshop on Stewardship in the Hispanic Community on Friday, November 4, from 9:30-11:30am. Olga Salas is charged with getting feedback from the Stewardship Committee regarding progress on the Ministry Fair and Prayer Cards.
 - e. Helen will work on securing name badges for those council members who have not received them yet.
 - f. Church Attendance Analysis – The usher ministry did a headcount for two weekends on the evening Masses, showing approximately 100-160 adults in attendance. Fr. Cain has decided to keep both evening masses and will make an appeal for more ministers at the Sunday evening Mass, which is very shorthanded.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
- a. At next meeting, council should be prepared to discuss and adopt the Pastoral Council Strategic Plan developed at the August retreat, in order to implement the new council goals and objectives, as well as the Communication Plan presented by Toni Aguirre and Olga Salas.
 - b. Olga Salas suggested that the norms be amended to allow a vote by proxy. After discussion, Leo made a motion to update the norms to include a way to have an emergency vote when necessary, either by teleconferencing, or email or fax, and that a record of minutes should be kept when such a vote was necessary. Toni Aguirre seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- IX. Closing Prayer
- X. Adjournment at 9:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Olga Salas