

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2005

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

Members Present: Fr. Steve O'Connor, President & Liturgy Advocate
Rod Echevarria, Chairperson
Anna Garner, Cultural/Special Events Advocate
Cathy Wilkey, Charity Advocate
Thomas Pileggi, Education Advocate
Dolores Osborne-Hensley, Fellowship Advocate
Mary Ellen Mayer, Secretary

Members Absent: Claudia Finn, Spiritual Formation Advocate
Rose Woodward, Vocations and Life Issues Advocate

Others Present: Deacon Kenneth Mayfield
Guy Stockton, Chairman, Building Ad Hoc Committee
Gloria Echevarria, Parishioner
Gene Calabro, Parishioner
Robert Kopp, Parishioner
Tom Witzman, Parishioner
Jane Witzman, Parishioner
Mary Jane Arthur, Parishioner

Kathy Wilkey offered the opening prayer.

Reading of Minutes: Minutes are distributed in advance of the meetings. They were approved as prepared.

Old Business:

1. The presentation of the option to find a different location for the building of our new Church, elicited many questions and strong opinions. A lengthy discussion regarding the issues raised at the Town Hall meetings of February 27th and March 2nd, 2005 was held. A list of questions and recommendations from parishioners was distributed.

A.: Questions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 were tabled and passed to the building committee to add to those presented at the town hall meetings, since the questions concerned the construction of the new building.

B: Question 3: The lunch room of Bob Sikes Elementary school is available for weekend classroom use. The cost would be approximately \$900.00 per year. Discussion included safety of crossing the road and difficulty of moving material to and from the site. However, the ultimate deciding factor to not pursue this option was that the atmosphere of one large room for teaching was not conducive to learning. Drawing from the experience of using the Church Hall as a classroom for multiple grades simultaneously, a decision was made to not

pursue use of Bob Sikes for classroom use.

C: Question 7: The Building Committee will need to address the specific needs to meet the growth of the Parish.

D: Question 8: Regarding our new Church, Bishop Ricard's opinion is that our Parish is growing very quickly. Consequently, he believes OLV needs to build adequate worship space quickly.

2: Guy Stockton had five pages of questions arising from the suggestion that OLV considers the possibility of purchasing land large enough to build the Church and the supporting structures. Fr. O'Connor suggested that it is the issues at hand that need to be addressed, not answering individual questions. Attempting to answer individual questions would likely be never-ending. Fr. O'Connor suggested that the council needs to know if the Church design, along with classroom and office space is too large for the land we now occupy.

3: The Building Committee was asked to present the projected specific needs of the Parish. The Committee is charged with consolidating parishioner concerns, along with a summary of the issues, into a workable order. They should be prepared to offer their opinion of what they found and what they recommend.

4: There was a discussion on whether to hold a Town Hall Meeting, prior to the council's final decision on the location of the new Church. The parish could be informed of what the Building Committee was asked to do. The Council will take a position to present to the parish.

5: A special meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, 2005 at 7:00 pm to consider the recommendation of the Building Committee.

6: The Pastoral Council will make a decision, regarding a location of the new Church, by May 1, 2005. Following a decision, a meeting will be held with Fr. O'Connor to present its position for Fr. O'Connor and Bishop Ricard to consider.

7: An announcement for two positions available on the Building Committee will be put in the bulletin. An engineer and realtor could be very useful to provide relevant facts to the Committee.

8: A discussion was held on developing a charter for the Building Committee.

New Business:

1: Rod Echevarria presented a proposal that he and Fr. O'Connor discussed, for the 50th Anniversary celebration of OLV. Dolores Osborne-Hensley, Fellowship Advocate, was named Chair of the ad-hoc Committee to plan the proposed year-long celebration. Rod Echevarria will name others to the Committee and an ad will be placed in the bulletin for volunteers.

2: Discussion was held regarding the targeting of young adult parishioners to become more involved in the activities of the Parish. It was suggested that nursery service be considered.

3: A suggestion was made to invite non-practicing Catholics to a gathering, making them the guests-of-honor in an effort to answer their questions and try to reunite them with the parish family.

Fellowship Advocate Report: Dolores Osborne-Hensley proposed that the Parish establish dates of annually held events well enough in advance so they may be printed into the yearly calendars distributed to the parishioners. She also proposed that a flier, with events scheduled for the following month, be added to the bulletin. While a calendar is available online, participation in events may increase if more parishioners were able to have a personal posting available.

Dolores also proposed that the year-end 50th Anniversary celebration be celebrated as a Ball. She proposed that Eglin AFB Officers Club would be a desirable location. Concerns were raised that many parishioners may be unlikely to make the drive, especially after dark. Dolores suggested OLV contract for a bus to accommodate those wishing to attend--especially for those parishioners wary of the drive.

Cultural/Special Events Advocate Report: Anna Garner contacted Mabel Barreto to discuss the needs of the Hispanic Church community. Gloria Echevarria will provide Anna with a contact for the Polish Church community.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 10, 2005 at 2:00PM in the church hall.

Rod Echevarria offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.