



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

Parish Council

Minutes from Meeting – December 5, 2009

Meeting was convened at 9:15 a.m.

Members present: Fr. Ken, Dave Dwyer, Rafael Benet, Carmen Lane, Barbara Tucci, Paul Tartabini, Shorty Melendez, Mary Chapman, Bill Collins, Linda Wahlert, Tina Wandersee, Scott Wood, Bill Burke– Visitors from Guatemala also present: Fr. Misael and Elisa

Fr. Ken's Updates:

- Padre Misael and Elisa (a sponsored college student) will be with us until Wednesday then will depart for Washington DC. They will be at all Masses this weekend. They have visited CNU, Peninsula Catholic, OLMC School. Elisa has met her sponsoring family from OLMC who subsidize her education. There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend for the Guatemala Mission.
- Dave will coordinate the Dedication of the Columbarium with the Staff. Fence and gate are up and a couple of benches are done, but still have a couple more to do. The sidewalk is in progress and should be finished by this week. Tuesday will be the first interment of ashes. Some of the personalized pavers have arrived.
- Town meeting is scheduled for January 13.
- Guatemala report – Council adjourned to CMS to view a video from the Pastoral Association of Guatemala
- Financial Report provided to the Council because as advisory group, PC needs to gain an understanding of the financial picture of the parish. Fr. Ken will invite Patty Nichols to the next PC meeting.

Guatemala Mission

The PC was able to view a video of many parishioners in San Jose who are in need of medical care (elderly, children, young adults). There is an obvious lack of the presence of able bodied men. Most have left to find a better life and sometimes they stop sending funds for the families. San Jose continues needing the help of people like OLMC because of the tremendous poverty that is present and the resources are not spread evenly among the classes.

Fr. Misael expressed his gratitude for all the support OLMC has provided and is grateful that some are being sponsored; however, he feels that some funds could be used to benefit a greater number in the 100's or 1,000's. The need for medical care is critical. There are many who cannot pay for medical care or who cannot make the long journey to a medical center. Fr. Misael is requesting assistance to contract a medical doctor to be accessible in the town and this will make care accessible to all.

Private doctors are very expensive. State hospitals tend to treat them with indifference and there is a lot of malpractice. A new rectory is being built and the lower level is designated for a clinic, pharmacy and laboratory. They have found a doctor who is willing to work for less than most doctors and is willing to stay local instead of leaving for the bigger cities. They have received a grant and are adding to it to be able to fund the first 6 months of the clinic and Padre Misael is asking for assistance to help keep the clinic going. He is also exploring other avenues of funding.

Council suggested a gathering of information for a clearer financial picture. Padre Misael will provide the information in summary form so that we can present it at the Town Meeting in January. It was determined that the February Mission Trip will be a great opportunity to assess the spaces and needs. Fr. Ken extended an open invitation for anyone to participate in this mission.

Padre Misael suggested adding the video to the church web site as a link to generate interest and spread the message. Also, it can be used as a form of catechesis regarding the elderly and sick in global outreach.

Old Business:

- 1) **Town Meeting** – Meeting will be on Jan. 13 instead of 1/14.
- 2) **Inclusive Ministry** – A list of needs and costs was prepared by Dave after the committee met with parishioners with special needs. It was categorized according to cost and term for completion. Some items can be fixed in a short term. Many accommodations are imperative needs. Some items can be offered at a lower cost to the Parish by being performed as possible volunteer projects for Scouts or other OLMC ministry groups (e.g. Men's Spirituality). Council members may e-mail ideas to Christa and cc: Dave and Fr. Ken.
- 3) **Retreat Planning Committee** – Dave has some interested parties as interest is being generated. Fr. Ken recommends forming the committee outside of the whole PC to plan and implement. This item will be brought to the Liaison Committee meeting on 12/9. Members wishing to share notes on the PC/Staff retreat day can send to Mary so she can collate and distribute to the council.

New Business

- 1) **Adult Faith Formation** – Women's Retreat is slated for 1/31. Sarah Hart will be the speaker.
- 2) **Building & Alterations Committee** – Scott Wood will participate in this project.
- 3) **Changes to PC meeting dates** – The PC meetings have been moved to non-People of Faith weekends. The dates are as follows: Jan. 23, February 20, and March 20.
- 4) **Parish Council Agenda** – The PC Chair will make the meeting agenda available to the entire council at least a few days prior to the actual meeting. PC members are always welcome to send proposed agenda items to the Chair. Also discussed were the purpose of the PC meetings and what types of discussion and agenda items are appropriate. The Parish Council is still a relatively young institution at OLMC and the group's scope continues to evolve. Clarification was made regarding the role of the Council as being an advisory group to the pastor. It is his ultimate decision to choose which ideas generated within the council will be acted upon.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30. Next meeting 1/23 - Barbara—prayer; Carmen/Mary- food.



*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Chapman, Secretary*

*Merry
Christmas*

*Feliz
Navidad*