

Pastoral Council Minutes: September 25, 2017

Members Present: Msgr. R. Morris, B. Langley, C. Creamer, S. Helton, K. Bentley, AM Hoobin, J. Hlavacka, M. Ustick, A.M. Hoobin, B. Atherton

Absent: T. Goodrich

Religious Clergy, Nuns and Laity Present: J. Marino

7:00 p.m. Prayer by Msgr. Morris

Minutes from the August Meeting were read and corrected. Motion to approve was passed

Discussion of Experiences during the Dinner for Refugees

Monsignor Morris asked each council member to share their thoughts about the Dinner for the refugees this evening, September 25th.

- People who were refugees from many different countries were brought together to share dinner at St. Catherine Siena
- Challenge in locating refugees is partially due to laws similar to HIPPA laws: agencies cannot disclose information about them; only way to get to know refugees is through personal contact
- Refugees reported neighbors invited; concerned about coming to a big place
- Many are in apartments visited by Sister Rosamunda and housing provided by Coptic Services
- Sister Rosamunda will follow up on what we can do to build further relationships with refugees within our parish boundaries
- Monsignor would like to have resources for facilitating English as a second language as well as for jobs
- A challenge to us relative to assisting the refugees is the privacy policy
- Father Jack shared his perspective of what people see from their experiences

Review of experiences with Hurricane Irma

- Each council member shared challenges during and after the storm
- Monsignor asked how we could better prepare for storms in the future, as a parish
- St Catherine posted evacuation centers and a map of Pinellas on the parish doors in addition to Bishop Parkes' announcement of dispensation from Mass during the week-end for those affected by the storm and contacted ministries to inform them they did not need to be at church the week-end of Irma
- A major challenge St. Catherine faced was the lack of power that affected communication outside of the church as both phones and internet were down. A staff member was able to find "hot spots" that enabled posting information on the web site and another staff member bought two tract phones and posted their numbers on the doors of the church and on the web site for people needing spiritual services
- Monsignor shared a need to establish a "safe zone" in the rectory by putting up shutters to protect the bottom floor of the house.
- Six PM Mass was cancelled and 11:00 AM Mass ministered to approximately ten people, many of whom came from parishes that were closed for the storm. He reported that approximately 250 people attended 4:00 pm Mass on Saturday, 25 for 7:00 AM Sunday, and 50 or the 9:00 am Mass.
- Both of the residences for the nuns sheltered several parishioners
- Coral Heights put up tents and shared generators to cook for the residents there who had no power
- The head of Catholic Charities USA came to Pinellas Hope to give \$250.00 to the diocese to be distributed throughout for those in need after the hurricane

- Monsignor shared thoughts about using St. Catherine as a shelter as the Red Cross has requested possible use in the past. A major challenge would be limited bathroom access. The church may be used for specific emergencies rather than opening it to the public in general. Monsignor suggested that there might be something else that St. Catherine could do during storms in the future.
- Monsignor announced that St. Catherine parishioners gave \$27,000.00 to the relief fund collected at Mass.

Old Business

Faith Formation:

- Monsignor shared that 130 people were fed Sunday evening that attended Alpha, Edge, and Life Teen.
- 16 students attended Life Teen (High school age): the most attendees in six years
- Alpha increased from 31 to 46 attendees
- Everything is showing growth and families are coming together to eat
- Marla shared that she spoke with a woman who, because of change in time of faith formation, she could attend faith formation as well as her child
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Legacy Committee: first decade of memorabilia from the inception of St. Catherine Siena is displayed in the previous cry room in Resurrection Hall

Connecting Our Faith to the Community

- Father Jack reported that Sister Rosamunda is continuing to distribute food at Siena House once a month, every third Saturday, serving approximately 60 families
- Sister Rosamunda is partnering with Well Care, a Medicaid/Medicare organization to provide hygiene and cleaning supplies to families
- Sister has also initiated two Enquentro prayer groups at Siena house: one in English and one in Spanish, that are held the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month
- The most recent project initiated by Sister Rosamunda, with the assistance of Elaine Luker and Mary Blythe and other volunteers, along with Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Coral Heights Neighborhood Association is door to door visits within the Coral Heights neighborhood to inquire about the needs of families there
- Sister Rosamunda and her team is also distributing food to the High Point Neighborhood on Monday mornings
- Kathy and Jerry Malarkey have established Marriage Enrichment groups and "date night" with the focus on how these opportunities have deepened their relationship with Christ and, if so, how have these experiences impacted family life

Next meeting: October 9th, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Resurrection Hall, Room 10. Closing prayer was offered by Father Jack. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully taken and submitted by Beth Langley