



Vision In Action
improving St. Therese Parish
via

- Hands-on involvement
- Stewardship of time, talent & treasure
- Listening and doing

Next meetings:
Saturday, Jan. 7
Saturday, Jan. 28

Vision In Action - VIA

Dec. 17, 2011

Attending: Carlos Herrera, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Fr. Bill Hoffman, Greg Pethan, Lori Fares, Jackie Couillard, James Zimmer, Larrie Brazner, Nancy Bourassa, Dcn. Tony Abts.

Meeting was chaired by Nancy Bourassa.

1. Opening Prayer - was said by Dcn. Tony.

2. Introductions - and welcome to our new members Lori Fares and Jackie Couillard! Lori's husband Gustavo will be joining us in the future.

3. Follow up on Stewardship talks

Where are we at? Was there going to be a "final presentation" to wrap it up? What about the Buildings & Grounds talk that was on the list as the last one? We got about 15 cards back of people volunteering for things.

Because of the talks we've started an English Bible Study group on Thursday mornings.

4. Evaluation of Advent Retreat:

"Loved the bi-lingual--this will bring the two communities together"

We had about 45 people, pretty evenly divided between Anglo and Hispanic.

The food plan went extremely well - several people brought treats for break and Freddy from Erbert & Gerbert's delivered subs for lunch, so no one missed the retreat by working in the kitchen. Thank you to our bakers!

Note: for the Spring retreat we should plan for child care. (Not needed at this one.) Also, next time buy potato chips for lunch.

5. Epiphany Breakfast & Bake Sale on January 8th after both Masses

Blevins were contacted and said they will help where needed, including opening up early on Sunday morning for the food prep. Carlos will coordinate this event. Menu was discussed, and all the various jobs that need to be filled.

Ellen will send around an email with the list and ask for volunteers to help in all the various areas.

Lori and Jackie will help Ellen with the Bake Sale. Fr. Bill signed up for clean up. We have cooks. Nancy suggested smokie links rather than porkies -- she has a good recipe, so will handle that. (Thanks Wienie Girl!) Carlos will find the evaluation forms from last year to find out how much food to buy.

After each event we should have people fill out an evaluation and then ask if they want to help at the next one.

6. Upcoming VIA retreat on January 7th -- 8:30 to 11:30

Karen Schaffer has agreed to lead this, but would like some direction -- what do we hope to accomplish?

Discussion followed, some points we would like covered include:

- What is the structure of Parish Council / VIA / Stewardship / Hispanic Committee - what is the mission of each, and where do they overlap? Who should do what, how should it be organized?
- We are two communities that share some things, but we're not one community
- Do we separate out Stewardship from VIA -- if we do, will we lose people?
- What is VIA's focus long-term? We have always been about getting things done, but we're getting burned out. Seems like VIA has turned into the social committee. We need to expand out - get more people involved.
- Stewardship - what is their mission statement/goal? Challenge us financially? Generate the dollars which are important for our parish community. How do we get past the uncomfortable-ness of talking about money?
- Finances are a key piece, and Parish Council oversees all of that
- Parish Council has lost its reason to exist, they now just read reports. They should be visioning, setting the direction for the parish and seeing about its vitality, and overseeing activities.
- The diocese has guidelines for Parish Council structure - legalities that must be followed
- We need to train leaders. Develop leadership for projects and ministries. Acquiring and dispersing. Match up the right person with the right task.

Assignments: Treats for Jan 7 retreat: Andy & Kathy Somers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Nancy. Drinks - Fr. Bill.

10. Next regular VIA meeting: January 28th Carlos will bring the treat. Contact Ellen if interested in leading prayer. Reminder that our VIA social is on 21st at Solea by the mall.

11. Closing Prayer - said by Nancy. Meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Minutes by Ellen Vissers

Did not talk about: Name tags, TV. Bring these items back at the January 28 meeting.

Calendar of Events that VIA needs to pre-plan or help with

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>START PLANNING</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>
January	Jan. 8, 2012	Epiphany Breakfast / Bake Sale	Nov.	Carlos/Blevins?
January	Jan. 21, 2012	VIA social	Nov. or Dec.	Delia call & reserve
February	Feb. ??	Micronesian Dinner	Dec.	Nancy / Irene
March	March 17, 2012	Lenten Retreat	Jan.	Fr. Bill
April	Wed., April 4th	Seder Meal	Feb.	Dcn. Tony
April	Easter is 4/8/12	Easter Egg Hunt - are we doing?	Feb.	
June	June 29, 2011	PC & VIA cookout	May	
June	?? Flag Day is 6/14	Sell food @ parade	March	
July	July 8, 2012	Parish Picnic/Pound Sale @ Erb	May	Wiegands/Pethans
December	Dec. 3, 2011	Advent Retreat	Oct.	Fr. Bill/Carlos/Nancy

2012 TREAT LIST

Jan 7 retreat

Andy & Kathy Somers

Ernesto Gonzalez

Nancy

Fr. Bill - drinks

Jan 28 Carlos

Feb Dick

April Bill Kime

Parking Lot items:

"If you're visiting" cards -- there should be something in the pew for people to fill out - maybe a brochure with info?
Back panel to sign up to join parish / tear off and return. Ellen will work on that after the name tag project wraps up.

Ministry Fair - for Stewardship, to get more people involved

Report on Parish's financial health and VIA's involvement in budget crunch
