



Vision In Action

improving St. Therese Parish
via

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

**Next meeting:
June 27 - 9am**

Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held May 30, 2009

Attending: Andy Somers, Bill Kime, Carlos Herrera, Dick Schreiter, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Greg & Jean Pethan, James Zimmer, Larrie Brazner.

1. Opening prayer - was said by James Zimmer.

2. Approval of Minutes - approved as published.

3. Phone Tree follow up - Greg Pethan

Parish Council approved buying the Phone Tree 2500 system. At this time there's a \$100 rebate on it. The next step is to get the database together (phone numbers, email / text addresses and find out which people prefer.) There is excitement about using this. We will need to keep the database updated - at least quarterly. Maybe use the Advancing The Mission telephone group to

accumulate the addresses. Committees need to get info from their members to the office. Question: who is the "owner" of this? This has been discussed with the office staff and Barb Miller and Chris Armstrong are on board with this. Our computer IT guy Eric Hass will help implement if needed. We think Barb needs to be the owner and keep the database updated. The Phone Tree will be installed in the parish office, and the office staff will be the ones using it. They also know when people leave the parish, move, change phone numbers, etc. So they are the logical ones to keep this up. Carlos has said he will keep up the Hispanic side of the database.

Greg and Bert will make an Action Plan / Project Plan -- the step by step of how to implement the Phone Tree system.

We can do the business card idea we had talked about last time to solicit email addresses and current phone numbers, the get the phone group to call the rest.

Let's ask Barb Miller, Mary and Bert to come to the next meeting and talk about collecting the database info.

Everybody will be on the Master List, then we reorganize into various sub-groups. We need to talk it up beforehand - notice in the bulletin, announce at Mass, etc.

Question: if we email people, can we attach a PDF to the message? So we could email the bulletin to people....

Answer: yes, we think the Phone Tree supports this.

2. Flat Screen TV – Bill Kime

The idea with this is to set up a TV in the back of church with various announcements, get to meet committee members, here are new members, these are pictures of the latest Mission Trip, etc.

Bill says at his place of employment there are TVs with various scrolling messages, running all the time. Question: what about the one in the Family Room? Answer: it's big and heavy, hard to move. It gets used fairly often by Carlos, REP, and various committees. We are thinking of buying another one to be permanently mounted in the back of church for these other purposes. Prices are about \$2,000 for a 50" flat screen, plus \$1,00 for a computer and software (Power Point). Or, about half the price for a 42" TV and a used computer.

We think the ushers could be in charge of turning it on and off before & after Mass. We need to think about who will program it (design the Power Point presentation) each week. This would seem to go along with with bulletin information, but maybe we could solicit a volunteer (young person???) to help with this. Phone Tree could solicit???

Carlos will call LPI, our bulletin service, and ask if they can help.

Fr. Bill could announce this and we could put it in the bulletin. Is there a young person who would think this was a fun project to do for their service hours or as a volunteer project that would look good on a college app?

Andy will write up something for the announcement/solicitation for a person to design the weekly Power Points.

The VIA group then took a field trip to the back of church to see where placement of the TV should be, and to determine a good size. We need to think about the electrical connections, and the computer connection (wireless, with the computer in the sacristy or office?) We could possibly use a CD or flash drive with the weekly announcements on it, but we would still need the software programmed in. We think the back right corner of the entrance is good (and fairly near an outlet), and a 42" TV is large enough.

Suggestion to get Suess Electronics over to look at the situation and give us some advice.

Bill and Carlos will follow up on getting Suess and an electrician over to assess and make recommendations.

Bill will also nail down pricing on the cost of the TV.

3. Outside sign with Mass schedule –

Dick was going to take photos of what other parishes have for signs, but did not have time yet.

Comment: it's not that bad, but it needs cleaning, the glass is very dirty.

Dick will call the city and check the ordinances about set backs and other regulations pertaining to signs.

At the next meeting we will take a field trip out there and look it all over.

4. Business card with web address - Ernesto & Ellen



As soon as the new web page is up and running, the plan is to send people there to get information (bulletin, minutes, calendar, etc.).

We also want to collect email addresses for the Phone Tree system, and to email people the bulletin weekly, (and announcements once in a while), all in the name of better communications. One of the ideas to collect email addresses was to hand out business cards with the new web address, and then ask people to give us their email address. To the left is Ellen's rough draft of what this card might look like. The top is the way the web page will look when people get there.

The group discussed this and decided to add a place for a phone number, and then on the flip side do the same info in

Spanish. **Carlos will translate this and email Ellen.**

We would need to explain what we're doing – announce at Mass – then leave the cards, plus pencils, in each pew. We will have a box in the back of church where people can drop them off. They can fill out one card with their info, and then take another one home so they have the web address. After discussion, we decided to go to a larger size - 3x5".

Bill will make the drop box in the back of church where they will be collected.

Ellen or Ernesto will make a larger version of the card to be used as a sign to go with the box.

5. Network site www.parishnetwork.org -

This is a social interaction site - much like Facebook, but church oriented. Sara brought up the idea - would this be beneficial for us? **Bill will bring his laptop to the next meeting and we will check it out, Ernesto will bring the projector.**

6. Web page update – Ellen

Coming along, we hope the new look - with the tabs at the top - will be up & running next week.

7. Follow up on Terry Thorne's talk

Let's discuss this at the next meeting in June and see if there are any ideas we can use.

8. Expanded bulletin idea

Put on the agenda for next time.

9. Next Meeting - June 27th

10. Meeting adjourned at 10:58

Minutes taken by Ellen Vissers