



Vision In Action

improving St. Therese Parish
via

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

**Next meeting:
August - 9am
(4th Saturday
of the month)**

Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held July 24, 2010

Attending: Andy & Kathy Somers, Bill Kime, Carlos Herrera, Dick Schreiter, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Fr. Bill Hoffman, Jean Pethan, James Zimmer, Larrie Brazner, Nancy Bourassa, Sara Buscher, Sr. Gemma Therese, Tony Abts.

1. Opening Prayer was said by Fr. Bill.

2. UPDATES:

A. Picnic & Pound Sale

We had 71 donations for the Pound Sale and made \$825 on that. Also sold food, so a total of \$1,073 profit for the day.

Evaluation of Pound Sale Auction: Took too long to auction, slow; but was fun. Next time fewer items, but "better"??? 175-200 people were there, a good mix of all ethnicities. Remind people to buy things now and set them aside for next year? Need more activities - volleyball etc. Need more change for change boxes. Start planning next April for the next picnic & pound sale and set the date now. Date: July 10, 2011. Ask office to put it on the master calendar. Dancing at the beginning was good and brought people in. Next year don't schedule any Baptisms on that day. Define hours - start at 11:00?

Last month VIA members chipped in money to hire 2 Men and a Truck to move a refrigerator and freezer, to get them in place before the picnic. The Biskupic family volunteered to do the moving and save the parish that money. Consensus by VIA to take that money now and put it into the TV fund.

B. TV - Bill Kime is building the TV stand, it's coming along nicely.

C. Parish Respect Life - Sara reported that the first meeting of this new committee will be held on Wed., Aug. 18 at 6pm in the Family Room, They have a good representation of the parish (5 Hispanics, 2 Micronesians, plus a number of Anglos and people who have volunteered to be "helpers") but the meetings are open to all who might be interested. The group will decide what issues they want to start working on.

D. Web Page / Calendar - Bert did some follow up on this and it seems the problem with the master calendar is that groups are not informing the office of changes, therefore the web calendar is wrong.

We suggest that a member of each committee be designated to get the office any changes: meeting date changes, activities added, deleted or moved, etc. Either the chairperson or the secretary of each group / committee should email the office with these changes. Maybe the office could send out a "tickler" email once a month and ask if there are any changes? Can this be set up via Phone Tree to send out the emails? Automated? Ellen will talk to the office staff about this. Carlos has volunteered to make changes to the web calendar if people email him those details.

E. Name tag use: - Ellen made name tags for the Anglo ministers, needs a list of the Hispanic ministers. Carlos will get that to her.

Question: How do we get them out to the people and explain their use? The office sends out a schedule quarterly to all ministers - the next will be some time in August. Why don't we include the name tags, lanyards and an explanation in each packet. We also need an explanation in the bulletin (Carlos or Fr. Bill to translate into Spanish). We also should photocopy and enlarge the explanation and post it in the sacristy and usher's room with a hook where people can keep their nametags if they desire. Otherwise, the nametags are going to be the individual's responsibility to keep track of.

Ellen will make the rest of the nametags, write up the explanation to go with, make a bulletin announcement up, and talk to the office about all of this. We need to see if we have enough plastic sleeves and red lanyards in-house.

F. Script - We plan to do a "Christmas" sale of Script. The group will meet in Sept. to start planning. Volunteers to discuss this further: Greg, Jean, Sara, Ernesto, Mary.

G. Parish Pot Luck / Visioning Meeting Minutes of the June 29 meeting are still to come. Follow up Visioning meeting will be August 11.

3. Stewardship -

Consists of 5 areas:

Gratitude
Hospitality
Prayer
Service
Sharing

Fr. Bill will talk about Stewardship at the Annual Parish Meeting. Costs/Budget came up the PC/ VIA meeting, those will be addressed.

There is a National Association of Catholic Stewardship; they have an annual convention. We suggest to Parish Council that we become members and send a couple of people to the National Convention. This year it will be held in San Diego from Sept. 19-22.

We need to define and clarify Stewardship - do an A3.

Brainstorming:

This is more than just fund raising.

We need to define: where are we now (current state) what do we want to look like at the end (future state).

We may need some statistics about the parish (Mary Ann Otto had some).

What activities do we need?

How to measure success?

Need to define so we can hand off Stewardship to another group and tell them what their function is.

More good stewardship info can be found on the diocesan website: www.gbdioc.org

Define: what are we taking on? -- Scope --

*GOAL - creating a culture of Stewardship at St. Therese Parish. Create an alive faith community

Sharing finances and volunteering

Stewardship is part of your personal spiritual growth - your walk with God

An "Attitude of Gratitude"

Begin with gratitude for what we have received

Creates ownership and belonging and commitment

"Our pocketbook follows our passions"

Dick says (quoting the diocesan program) don't start stewardship if you don't have a welcoming church; don't even bother.

How do we know if we are welcoming or not? Define.

We are doing more parish activities, involving the whole parish

A welcoming parish is where more people know people

Welcoming is Step 1 of stewardship

Could have done better at the Parish Picnic to introduce people - keep in mind for future events. Designate someone at each event?

Spirituality is a big part of stewardship - that's first

Ask for parishioner input

Talk to ministers at Fall meetings about welcoming and Stewardship

Communication efforts have bene welcoming

Keep up with communications: more notices/ Phone Tree/ TV/ keeping people informed- are all welcoming

Need to create activities for Stewardship keeping in mind welcoming

Need a Stewardship watch dog; create culture of welcoming at EVERY activity

Need greeters at every activity

Someone to "keep the flag in their hand"

Activity measurement - calendar also

Didn't Mary W. have a master checklist for planning activities? Add welcoming/greeting/nametags to that. (Where is it?)

Make the postcards available to collect more email addresses

Prayer is a fundamental

Problem - welcoming in the parish office - people walk in and have to wander around looking for someone. Put in window, cut out part of the wall?? Do some remodeling?

Goal - how do we know when we get there?

Get people passionate - then more will join our parish, we will have higher participation at our events, and if "your pocketbook follows your passions" then the bottom line will go up - all of those are measurable.

Another measure - we will get some enthusiastic people to take over the Stewardship Committee

Another measure - have a vibrant Parish Council and Finance Council

Other measures - more people will join the standing committees, a general increase in volunteering, more social activities

Evaluations of events would say "This is great, do this again" (Question - can we do Phone Tree evaluations after events?)

Increase in community prayer - Renew type groups, Bible study, Faith Sharing, Mass attendance

We also should encourage volunteering for non-parish charitable events: St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army meals, etc.

How about instituting a visual system to let people know what's going on - picture boards with Baptisms, new members, etc. Do special outreach projects? Help homeowners, St. Vincent de Paul "night"? Publish who works at the Food Pantry / LEAVEN / who visits the homebound. TV would be good for this also.

4. Cooking Lessons idea - Nancy

We have 3 ethnic groups: Anglo, Micronesian and Hispanic. How about cooking lessons? Learn to make their special foods. Could do this monthly. Also homemade pizza (teens), fancy Christmas cookies, lot of ideas/variations possible. Maybe have Sunday Dinner 6 times a year, learn to cook in the afternoon, then serve the food at a dinner??? Need one or two people to head this up, then invite guest chefs in to teach. We would need to get the large kitchen restocked & up to speed to accomplish this. Nancy will talk to Dave Rank, Lupita and the Ladies of St. Therese and get some feedback.

5. Raffle Tickets / Patronal Feast fundraiser

Fr. Bill is requesting help to get the raffle tickets sold / handed out. We can't mail them any longer. Would like to sell them after Mass until they're gone. \$2,000 top cash prize. Several people volunteered to sell this weekend. Box with tickets will be in the sacristy if anyone wants to volunteer in the future at a certain Mass.

6. "Homework" before the next VIA meeting

Read the pamphlet on Stewardship - "Parish Stewardship Committee Guidelines" available at www.gbdioc.org
Make notes on what is transferrable to our parish, bring your notes to the next VIA meeting.

Agenda for next meeting: prayer; welcoming; homework-what's transferrable; talk about goals, flesh out, maybe 3 measurable goals; "current state"; issues about welcoming

7. Reminder - Annual Parish meeting August 19th.

Need to elect a new Trustee-Secretary. Nominations must be in to the office 2 weeks before the meeting. (No longer nominations from the floor that night, new diocesan rule.) If you're interested, submit your name to Fr. Bill.

7. Next meeting August 28 - 9am. Tony Abts will bring the treat.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57

Minutes by Ellen Vissers