



Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held January 2, 2010

Vision In Action
improving St. Therese Parish
via

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

**Next meeting:
January 30th
9 am**

Attending: Andy Somers, Bert Wiegand, Bill Kime, Carlos Herrera, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Fr. Bill Hoffman, Greg Pethan, Larrie Brazner, Nancy Bourassa, Sr. Gemma Therese.

Opening Prayer was said by Fr. Bill

UPDATES:

1. Epiphany Breakfast - Phone Tree message went out to some, not all. Those that got it said Chrissy's message was great - loud & clear. We need to get the email portion of this going also. Bert will check up on things after he returns from the mission trip at the end of Jan.

Discussion about what needs to be done for the breakfast, items to be bought yet (Bert will make a run to Sam's Club.)

VIA members should wear name tags - Ellen will make.

2. TV stand - Bill Kime is looking into this. Needs to be sturdy (kids might climb), also need to make sure kids can't push buttons (plexi shield??) Sam's had one, approx \$500.

3. School building - Hoffman Construction's estimates for all 3 options were \$1 million each. Parish Council now thinks we should keep what we have, rent the cafeteria & gym & rooms if possible. Barb is checking on the possibility of a separate boiler for the Activity Center. The buildings need to generate enough income to pay for heating bills. Suggestion: the government currently has funding for incubation of new businesses. We could look into that.

Pfefferle has changed the sign out front from For Sale to For Sale or Lease.

We have also come to realize that we need the parking that goes with that building, we would not meet city codes if we sell the parking lot with the building.

4. Name tags - We have 200 red lanyards now that say St. Therese / Santa Teresita.

5. Review of Retreat - Very interesting, lots of positive comments. Tremendous sharing went on. We should think about doing more, on different themes - maybe Lent? Maybe Mission Trip presentation - Mary, Bert & others? Possibly combine those presentations with a Spaghetti Supper or a Breakfast.

Next meeting we should set some dates & themes for about 3 more activities. Easter is April 4th this year.

6. Giving Tree Review - Sara and Larrie said things went smoothly; they ran out of tags on the tree. Maybe more next year. Gifts were assigned this year, maybe next year ask the people who make home visits for specific ideas for each person. \$600 was collected for school tuition for students in the Dominican Republic - this amounts to full tuition for a year for 12 students.

7. Hair cuts as fundraiser review - Fr. Bill reported that this went extremely well, on the second Sunday the group also sold tamales; \$1,076 was raised for the mission trip. Pictures are on the web site.

NEW ITEMS:

8. Next time we should review the accomplishments of VIA after one full year in existence; and we should set some goals for 2010.

Some suggested goals might be: focusing on the positives in our parish - sacraments, family friendly things, involvement. Remember that we want to be an action-oriented group.

A visitor asked if we video tape Mass for those unable to come. Could we tape it and put it on the internet? Live feed? Is it possible; what's involved? Does the diocese have hosting? Ellen will check with them.

Bert and Mary do Senior Showcase, a TV program on cable targeted to the elderly; but they have found that many elderly can't afford cable TV.

Could we tape Mass and make DVDs and hand them out to the homebound? We need to identify the market for this. There is a Mass on TV already.

9. Next Meeting: January 30

Agenda: review 2009

Brainstorm fund raising ideas for Parish Council - invite Laura Biskupic to join us?

Retreats

Set goals for 2010

Audit Phone Tree effectiveness

10. Meeting adjourned at 10:58.

Minutes by Ellen Vissers



VIA projects accomplished:

- 1. Office survey; several recommendations implemented
- 2. Pilot of communications survey was completed
- 3. Sign out front w/Mass times fixed & updated
- 4. Stewardship survey - handed to Parish Council for Stewardship committee to handle
- 5. Comm. Foundation Matching Day - communications went out, \$10,000 was raised for parish
- 6. We officially have a name and logo: Vision In Action / VIA
- 7. Terry Thorne presentation gave us much to discuss
- 8. New website is up and running.
- 9. Phone Tree system installed & being used
- 10. "Business cards" handed out, info coming back
- 11. Bi-lingual retreat was a success
- 12. Giving Tree program under new management, went well
- 13. Epiphany Breakfast & Bake Sale raised \$1,000
- 14. Lanyards bought, names tags made for VIA; starting to implement

Parking lot items:

Communications Survey

Update family room

Covered room between church & rectory (with skylights, heating coils in floor???)