

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2011 St. Therese Catholic Church

I. Finance Report

The six-month financial report will be published in the bulletin during the first week of March. Our net income from the Super Duper Bowl, after distributing the checks to all the winners, is \$5,800. Some of the winners are still planning on donating some of their winnings back to the church, so then our net income should push us over \$6,000. The tickets for this fundraiser were much easier to sell than for the 50/50 raffle, because it was for an activity that many people enjoyed engaging in. However, many people did not even know that this fundraiser was happening and that this was one of the three fundraisers we have per year. Since it was a success this year, we will do it again next year. Some people did not approve or participate in this fundraiser because they considered it gambling and thought it was wrong. Next year, it is best to have Fr. Francis tell the parishioners, instead of the committee, that there is nothing wrong with this fundraiser. Improvements to make for next year: longer preparation, start making announcements and advertising/publicizing this fundraiser in the media earlier—around late December/early January, pick the numbers after the 5 P.M. Saturday Mass, have tastier and healthier food options at the party (some said that the food was not good, unhealthy, and some food items were virtually untouched), and have a form to fill out for everyone who wishes to buy a square (a form to put their contact information, so that they can be contacted about what numbers they have).

II. Facility Report

The Facility Committee will be meeting on February 27th. It was decided that the work on the exit lights will be done by professionals. The kitchen sink is still being worked on. Sheila is waiting for the quote. The grease trap is an ongoing problem and expense as long as people keep pouring grease down the drain. So we are going to change the pump and the pipe to try to fix it once and for all, at least with a solution that requires the least maintenance. We are going to ask for a quote on this.

III. Annual Catholic Appeal Report

This weekend will be announcement weekend. Next weekend will be commitment weekend. The following weekend will be follow-up weekend.

IV. Lunar New Year Celebration Evaluation

- A. The Good:** The decorations were very good and looked beautiful! We were able to put them up with the help of the 20+ people who came to decorate—great commitment! Jade provided lunch for the decorators. The School helped out on Friday and contributed many chairs and tables for our Community Room. The actual event on Sunday got parishioners, who were usually not that active, more engaged. There were more people from the Indonesian and Mandarin groups there than in the past. The LNY committee members dressed up very nicely. Their outfits were wonderful! Raymond Lin and Jade Yee did a fantastic job—they took care of many last-minute changes that no one realized had occurred except for only a few people. John Lin did a great job in telling people about receiving Communion and to come up for a blessing if they were not Catholic. The event was very well-attended and our church was filled, including the choir loft. The mood was good and many visitors said they liked the Mass. We were able to get a good Sunday collection (\$4,500) at Mass. The food at the reception was delicious—many thanks to the chefs! The colored worship aid was very pretty—many thanks to George Lee and Tony Lin!
- B. Things that need improvement:** For the long term, we need to find a better way to attach the decorations on the walls, poles, tabernacle, etc. The material of the walls will be damaged if we continue to use pins and tacks to poke holes in the walls in order to keep things up. Also, it is encouraged that we use our creativity and decorate the minor things differently each year while keeping the important things in place. There is no need to take out pictures from the previous year and try to

replicate those decorations. The speech from the representative from the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office had interesting content, but was long. We should distribute a copy of an explanation of the Mass for those who are not Catholic so that they can follow along and understand the meaning of each aspect of the Mass. The entire process needs to be streamlined, written and printed out, and everyone should know the procedure of the event before it happens. We need to start planning in December, with all details of the event's procedure on paper. It was suggested that we try to make the Mass 1.5 hours instead of 2 hours. Others pointed out that 2 hours was not a problem, because it only happens once a year and in fact, we may be the only Catholic Church in the U.S. that celebrates Lunar New Year so extensively. People were not just there for the Mass, they were also there because they wanted to see how our church celebrates Lunar New Year, how we do it differently from other churches, and they wanted to see happiness and celebration. As a matter of fact, a visitor loved our celebration so much that he is going to bring the idea to Malaysia and implement it there. Regarding the delay on the lunch, someone should have made an announcement to the people standing in line that we were being delayed because we were waiting on the whole-roasted pig to arrive. A few people did not know what was going on and left without eating. There needed to be better communication to the crowd. The reason why there was a delay was because two restaurants that had previously said they were going to donate food bailed on us when we went to pick the food up and no one at the restaurants knew anything about the food donations to us. It was suggested that we print out a menu during the planning phases next year and we ask for donations according to our menu. If we can't get food donations from the restaurants, then we should decide to cook it ourselves or ask our parishioners to donate them. We cannot rely on the mercy of the generosity of the restaurants on the day of the event and let this happen again. Also, by printing out a menu, we are able to simultaneously acknowledge the donors and cooks for each dish. Solicitations for food donations will be announced in the bulletin weeks before the event next year. We need to revamp our public relations group. In general, for all of our events, we need to do a better job with publicity and doing it in advance, before the event. It was suggested that we publish all of the songs in the worship aid next year. To do this, we will obtain the copyrights for each song we publish in advance. The servers came late and the greeters did not come early enough. We need more ushers. We should have added a note "A moment of silence" in the worship aid before the ancestral rites, while the tables and incenses were getting set up. Next year, we need to have a rehearsal of the preparation of the ancestral rites, especially for the people who moved the tables and helped to set it up. Also, not everyone was at the final LNY committee meeting. It was the most important meeting for this event.

V. Lent Planning

The theme for Lent will be the same theme we used for Lunar New Year. Rose Cho will be asked to put the letters that spell out the theme on a banner to be hung at the front of the church. The decorations for Lent will be done on March 6. If we decide to cover the statues, as it has been done every year, it will be done on the 5th Sunday of Lent. The Rite of Elections will be held on March 13. For our Lenten service, we will be helping out at St. James Food Pantry on March 12th from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. Anyone can come and there is no limit on the number of volunteers. Mandarin-speakers are especially encouraged to come as well. We need a flyer for this event in the bulletin and a sign-up sheet for volunteers. For the Fish Fry, we will have one

entrée, one vegetable dish, and one pasta/rice dish. Because there will not be as much food as in previous years, the expenses will not be as high. The Fish Fry information needs to be put in the bulletin and there needs to be a sign-up sheet to solicit for helpers and for food donations. There are 7 weeks in Lent and there will be a different leader assigned to be in charge of each of the 7 Fish Fry dinners. George will find these leaders. There will not be a suggested donation for the dinner, only a free-will offering. There is a woman who will be giving a presentation on St. Thérèse of Lisieux. We have decided on having this presentation on March 27 (April 3 is a backup date) from 12 P.M. to 1 P.M. For Lent, we will be doing Operation Rice Bowl, which benefits the archdiocese's Catholic Relief Services. We will distribute the bowls on March 6, a PPC Council representative will say something to the congregation about it and about almsgiving, and then the church will collect the rice bowls around Good Friday. This year, we received 600 rice bowls--way more than we need. Maybe it is possible that we can give 300 bowls to the School. At a later date, we will be doing another

almsgiving activity—the Baby Bottle Project. This will directly benefit the counseling, support, and spiritual services offered at The Women’s Center for mothers and their families to save babies from death by abortion. They offer ongoing counseling and referral services for alternatives to abortion, education about the injustice of abortion, and provide over \$500,000 annually in tangible assistance in clothing, food, baby goods, cribs, baby needs, toiletries, and other basic family needs. Over 1,000 children per year, who would likely have been aborted, have been brought to birth, because of their counselors’ efforts. We distribute the empty baby bottles (The Center provides these) to our congregation, parishioners fill them with change (and by soliciting others for change), we collect the bottles after 3 weeks, and then The Women’s Center comes and picks them up.

VI. Other Concerns

As of next Advent, Mass will be different in terms of the words used and the music will be different. There will be new sacramentaries and songbooks. There is a meeting on March 7 from 5 P.M. – 9 P.M. explaining these changes. At the very least, someone from the liturgical committee, choir, and catechetical group should attend. It was suggested that Lily, Roque, Jade, Joyce Hsieh, and Steve Cottam attend. Information will be sent by Fr. Francis. For the Parish Leadership Day, the admission fee can be covered by the Archdiocese’s Office for Asian Catholics. No one has expressed interest in attending so far. Our School LNY Dinner Benefit is this Saturday. We will have a table to support this event.

VII. Next PPC Meeting: March 21, 2011 at 7 P.M.