

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH
PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Father Fred and Dick opened with a prayer.

Members attending: Doris Brodeur, Gary Chmielewski, Dick Clark, Mary Kella

Janine Marrone, Father Fred Tillotson

Excused absence: Deacon Tom Grant Unexcused absences: Bob Dailey & Gail Rollins

- March 21 Minutes were approved as read. Motion by Dick Clark, seconded by Gary Chmielewski

- Pastor's Report: Northern congregants still with us, but will be leaving soon. The Bishop has requested that efforts begin to find rectory housing closer to the church... either through locating neighboring property or building on church land. Consensus would suggest the latter, near the garage area, with option to build for specific needs. Current residence would be sold and funds used toward new establishment. Committee will be organized to proceed on this matter.

There is concern with adjacent residents who are encroaching on OLMC property by driving over our land to get to Tamiami Trail. Looking into measures to circumvent this.

The request by the Knights of Columbus to establish a Council at OLMC was approved. Their fundraising projects, which would benefit us 80-20, and their charitable endeavors would be a positive influence. Members will make a presentation at an upcoming Mass and registrations will be sought... 20 participants are required.

- Committee evaluations: Time was spent listing the strengths and weaknesses of the parish as viewed by our members. The POSITIVES included the following, in no special order:
 - Sense of Community
 - Debt-free facility, beautiful and well maintained
 - Father Fred's homilies
 - Good liturgies, ministers
 - Opportunities for participation in ministries
 - Outreach programs... Immokalee, Food Pantry, Prayer Shawl
 - Carmelite Spirituality
 - Mass Schedule (inclusion of 7:30 timeframe)
 - Size of congregation
 - Growing community
 - Stable financial picture
 - Pastoral organizations in place
 - Café Carmel
 - Funeral Ministries, Arimatheans
 - Furnishings and location

The NEGATIVES (again in no special order):

1. Lack of young families
2. Efforts to reach additional volunteers
3. History of conflict & dissent
4. Lack of dedicated church facility & social hall for community events
5. Pool of cantors
6. Age of population, lack of diversity
7. Lack of coordination between liturgical ministries
8. Need for new member sessions & welcoming committee
9. Lack of year-long education calendar, guest speakers & training opportunities
10. More Marian devotions
11. Cliques... closed-club mentality
12. Unclear delineations for Men's and Women's Clubs
13. Inability to reach Easter/Christmas people and the unchurched
14. Lack of clear financial plan for fundraising
15. Social ministries not clearly defined
16. Inconsistency in Reception area
17. Lack of social committee to plan and execute social events
18. Lack of prayer time in church... reverence before Masses
19. Lack of vibrant programs for youth & young adults
20. Tendency of many to be judgmental

Another area not covered is life issues (respect for life, aging, end-of-life etc.)

Members were then asked to prioritize the negatives as to which need immediate attention and our emphasis in the near future:

14. Lack of clear financial plan for fundraising
9. Lack of a yearlong education calendar that includes guest speakers & opportunities
7. Lack of coordination among liturgical ministries
8. Need of new member orientation sessions & welcoming committee
19. Lack of vibrant programs for youth & young adults

- Actions: 1. Members are asked to determine strategies to address the 5 highlighted areas & bring ideas to next meeting.
- 2. Members are asked to sort the 20 "negatives" into high, medium & low priority.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting: May 16 at **4:00** p.m. Prayer: Janine

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kella
Secretary

Father Frederick J. Tillotson, O.Carm
Pastor
Doris Brodeur Ph.D., M.A.
Chairperson