

7/15/2023

ST. FRANCIS of ASSISI PARISH, SACRAMENTO
JUNE 24, 2023 TOWN HALL MEETING SUMMARY

Greetings Fellow Parishioners,

On Saturday, June 24th, 2023, a Parish Town Hall meeting was conducted by the Parish Council from 9-11 am in Brunsman Hall for interested parishioners.

Fr. Rey opened the meeting by leading the group in prayer. The agenda included an opportunity for the 35+ attendees to introduce themselves and tell how long they had been parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. The time ranged from 2 months to 2nd and 3rd generational families, spanning 80+ years! Brief overviews of the Parish Mission Statement and Parish Pastoral Council Mission Statement were given. Those in attendance were asked to complete forms with their contact information, current or former occupations, interests, talents, and skills which they are willing to share in the Parish. Additionally, there were anonymous forms available for mailbox questions or concerns. As the meeting progressed, participants were asked to discuss in their groups ways in which our Parish life could be improved. As a result, the following areas emerged:

Spiritual

- Need for religious speakers and adult parish retreats
- More vibrant celebrations of the Eucharist
- Increase of choir members
- Mass song teaching before Masses
- Use of flowers and appropriate decorations weekly
- Return the Sacrament of Baptism to the Mass
- Use of parish baked bread for the Eucharist
- Provide Eucharistic wine for Communion
- Increase altar servers, both female and male
- Provide Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) opportunities and child care during Mass
- Offer training for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and for Ministers of the Word
- Refill Holy Water fonts at the doors
- Promote and encourage "Taize Prayer" and "Women in Conversation" attendance by inviting parishioners from other Churches and request volunteers to help
- Return of August Film Festival
- Sunday School Masses with the Children's Choir
- Weekday Masses each day of the week

Community Building

- Involve more families and youth in Parish activities and family events
- Provide Young Adult Ministry opportunities
- Offer monthly refreshments after each Mass
- Update current parishioner membership list
- Plan new parishioner welcome meetings
- Advertise no cost Parish picnic on October 8th, 2023 and request volunteers
- Offer alternative Christmas fair and holiday events
- Provide volunteer appreciation activities and acknowledgement of donors
- Use of home gatherings like those used for "Renew" discussions
- Include Parish School community in future town hall meetings

Outreach

- Respite for the Unhoused
- Instead of "Steps Program", host "Ministry at the Gate" at noon in the Courtyard with sandwiches, water, coffee, companionship
- Research St. John Lutherans' "Midtown Heart" Program
- Organize "Loaves and Fishes" support teams

- Institute St. Vincent de Paul Chapter

Communication

- Provide updates as to what is going on in the Parish
- Update Sunday bulletin, Flock Notes, and website with more dynamic and informative content and reach out news
- Include Iftar dinner recap, Francis Fest financial report, RCIA totals
- Create and publish monthly calendar of events
- Parish Pastoral Council Members need to be more visible, introduced at Masses and photos posted in back of Church

Finances

- Transparency (are we financially in the red or the black?)
- Monthly budget sharing (income and expenditures)
- Institute Capital Campaigns for specific Church needs: sound system, boiler/air conditioning, roofing repairs, exterior Church painting, plumbing, Friary renovations, etc

Safety

- Security Council needed for parishioner safety in and around the Church, most importantly for the safety of our Parish School students/children coming and going from the Parish complex during the weekdays
- Training for active shooter(s) on premises, various threats, and disasters

Parish Master Plan

- What are the steps which need to be taken for:
 - Brunsman Hall handicapped accessibility, oven repair, kitchen repairs, cleanliness
 - Parish Center improvements
 - Friary renovations to bring all systems up to code
 - Church repairs, maintenance upkeep, exterior painting, sound system
 - Front gate alternatives
- Need for funding with plans of action for the above
- Explore option for Parish administrator

Meeting Evaluation

- Summary of Town Hall Meeting should be shared with all parishioners
- Updates and progress on topics covered should also be shared in a timely manner

Those who attended and responded said they would be interested in attending a future Town Hall meeting, with only one “maybe” response. In general, attendees and Fr. Rey, felt the meeting was extremely worthwhile and gave hope that the parishioners who attended are very interested in, and supportive of, making St. Francis of Assisi Parish a welcoming, flourishing, safe, and dynamic Catholic Parish for all! Fr. Rey closed the meeting with thanks to all and a prayer.

*Please note that the above is a summary of the ideas and suggestions presented at the Town Hall Meeting and is not intended to be a summary of Parish matters or ministries in the works. All input and ideas will be prioritized and discussed with Fr. Rey through prayerful discernment. Stay tuned for updates and the next town hall meeting date(s). Lastly, the Parish Pastoral Council is beyond thankful for the amazing support, participation, and input of the Parish community.

God Bless,
Parish Pastoral Council
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Sacramento

