

Župnijski Svet – Brezmadežna Čudodelne Svetinje (Toronto)

Parish Council – Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Toronto)

SPECIAL MEETING ON PLANNED CHURCH MISSION #2

MEETING MINUTES

July 5, 2010

Attendees:

Father Valentin Batič
 Father Antonio Burja
 Mojca Dimperio
 Sonya Horvat
 Rozika Nesich
 Paula Petersen
 Milan Vinčec
 Jože Česnik
 Bernarda Čemas
 Robert Ferkul
 Andy Pahulje
 Marjeta Franc
 Josephine Zilavec

Representing:

Priests
 Priests
 Women's Choir (Naša Pesem)
 Catechists
 Catholic Women's League (KŽL)
 Scouts
 Slovenian School
 Bolniki
 Cerkevni Zbor
 Planika / Mladi Glas
 Pevski Zbor
 Apostolic Circle
 Nageljčki

Guest Attendees:

Fr. Claudio Piccinini
 Mrs. Cvetka Andrejaž

 Ana Matajic
 Anica Sluga
 Christine Genorio

The Passionist Mission Team
 Secretary, Our Lady of the
 Miraculous Medal Church

 Pevski Zbor
 Slovenian School

1. Began meeting with a prayer.
2. The idea of this meeting was to have invited everyone from each of the organizations to come and begin the plans for the mission. Due to the timing of this meeting (ie. Based on Fr. Claudio's availability) being in the summer, attendance is difficult. A meeting will need to be held where all the members of each organization (eg. All choir members, all Women's League members, all Slovenian School teachers, all ushers, etc.) is in attendance. This will generate widespread news of what we are doing as well as assist in assigning responsibilities. The idea behind the mission will also begin percolating within our community.
3. Paula Peterson read the minutes of the first meeting held with Fr. Claudio to let the non-parish council members aware of what we are planning.

4. Fr. Claudio arrived after coming 160 km.
5. Fr. Claudio explained that the mission is a time of blessings, graces, conversation and conversion. It is an action of the Holy Spirit. Father Batic led by the Holy Spirit made the call to Fr. Claudio. Fr. Claudio would like to see as many people as possible invited to the mission. If we take the call seriously it will be a successful event. The mission will remain here for us to grow from. Effects will follow. We are the ones in the position to make the things happen and we will be the ones to gather in the process after the mission.
6. The leaders of the groups are to go back to their groups and involve their members. When people are invited they will want to come. They will want to be touched by the Holy Spirit.
7. Dates of the Mission are Saturday, March 26 to Friday, April 1
8. Fr. Claudio to preach at Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses to start the mission. At 7:30 p.m. Sunday evening the mission proper begins. No mass to begin the Sunday evening presentation. A different themed presentation will be held every night for the rest of the week. The themes are noted on Fr. Claudio's pamphlet. The Monday night to Friday night presentations begin at 7:30 with a brief mass followed by the presentations. The presentation will be followed by a Q & A and confessions.
9. The Mission is over after the Friday evening presentation, then our mission begins.
10. Preparation is crucial. We all know people who need help, who need God's help. This is the time to invite them to the church. The Holy Spirit will be here in a very special way, because the pastor called him here.
11. There is a possibility of a crucifix being made available to each of the families, at no cost except the request to make an offering. This crucifix will be a replica of the crucifix that will be venerated at the beginning of the mission. This crucifix is one of a live Jesus, listening, that we can put in our homes so people can talk to it. On the opening night everyone will receive a small crucifix and a prayer card so that we can all pray together on the opening night.
12. In preparation for the missions, we will be holding meetings with each of the groups to let them know that we need their help. We need to involve the younger generation (ie the second generation of most of our parishioners).
13. We can create pamphlets listing the times, dates, and themes of the mission. We should hand them out in stores, church bulletins, etc. We should use media to inform people (eg. Internet contacts, emails). Also contact people who have not come to the church in some time (eg. those lost by distance, etc.).

14. We must keep in contact with people to ensure that they are on track with the plans. It is never too early to begin the plans. Inform everyone early so that people do not make any plans for that week.
15. Be sure that we are not encompassing or overlapping other church events or events held at other churches. Also ask other churches if they could also announce our mission.
16. Organist – songs must be planned in accordance with the plans of the evening. (ie. short songs for entrance and communion, maybe longer for recessional so that Fr. Claudio can get changed). Friday night the service can be even more influential as they venerate the cross (eg. passion week music such as “Jesus Remember Me When You Come Into the Kingdom”, “Crowned With Many Crowns”, “Were You There”, “Above All”).
17. To quicken the Communion, possibly have three lines.
18. Mission Envelopes – Fr. Claudio does not provide them. For a tax deductible receipt, place address in envelope so that the receipt can be given. Thursday evening, announcement will be made for receipts. Envelopes to be collected Friday evening.
19. We can plan a meeting specifically for children/teens. Fr. Claudio would like to know prior so that he can arrange but the date and time must be within that week. This would be an extra presentation that can be done at our discretion however the mission is geared toward all ages. Any questions that may be asked and cannot be answered because it would entail an answer that is not appropriate, Fr. would ask to meet that person after the mission that day (eg. Marital issues).
20. Fr. Claudio also spoke to us about Teopoli. A place of Peace, Love & Unity – the three words that encompasses the idea behind the beginning of Teopoli – a spiritual retreat (Sr. Carmelina monument also there – she is up for canonization). You can become a member and come up and have retreats.
21. We are to keep Fr. Claudio aware of the schedule for any and all events that week. If we have a meeting just for the children, perhaps on the Saturday morning, where we can invite the younger generation (eg. Scouts, dancers, etc.) we need to let him know beforehand. Fr. Claudio expressed a small concern about a separate presentation for the children insofar that they might feel once they hear that presentation they don't need to come during the week. Young people need to know the facts, the truth. Which is something they are probably not getting today. Family, church and school (a triangle) is what strengthens and inspires young people. Pope John Paul II spoke and challenged youth. That is what inspired them. Do not underestimate the understanding of the youth. They are starving for the truth.
22. To be successful, the eucharist is important (blessed adoration). People who are close to the blessed sacrament have a different way of living their faith and it shows.

23. Discussion can be held on having someone come to speak to the congregation prior to the week. Annie Sluga suggested inviting someone she knows who attended a prior Fr. Claudio mission at St. Catherine of Sienna Church.
24. This is also an opportunity for people to discover what differences possibly exist within our church, that they might actually prefer more than what they are presently experiencing (eg. Introduce various choirs).
25. We can also use the retreat to re-engage people into the church organizations (ie. Recruit them to be involved in different aspects of church life; eg. join us in the choir, as an usher, etc.)
26. Fr. Claudio told us a story of what happened to him when he was a young man. He was looking out of his window at home when he saw a balloon floating in the sky. Seeing a balloon was very rare so he followed it, above and beyond some hills from his home. He finally found the balloon and attached to the balloon was a miraculous medal. Perhaps that balloon was a sign of what was to come ... speaking at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church.
27. At the conclusion of the meeting, Fr. Claudio provided a blessing.

Prepared by:

Sonya Horvat