Saint James Catholic Church

Parish Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, November 13, 2021

Meeting convened at 9:30a.m. with the prayer of the rosary.

* **Fr. Oscar**: started the meeting with the prayer on synodality
* **Taylor**: began with a dynamic on presentation of the attendees and introducing the three topics being covered: Social Justice Ministry, Community Outreach, and Prolife Ministry as actions ingrained in Faith formation, adult formation, youth Formation.

***First Topic- Taylor***

* **Social Justice** and its various components: Taylor gave and overview of what social justice is.

+ What is God asking us to do (professor from CCU is contributing with us)

+It is our responsibility to approach the political leadership.

+Social action box in place for you to make donations for the needy

+Human Trafficking Coalition, that is putting in place a building to help victims

of human trafficking.

+Social Justice is about: Education, Outreach, Advocacy throughout its seven

themes.

+Misunderstanding of Social Justice Ministry. Some people interpret it to go against the “Conservative Church” because it promotes communism, they say. The answer is to look at a day in Jesus’ life. Remember the love commandment: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Building the Kingdom of God means that we as a church practice outreach to the needs of the oppressed.

+Social Justice Ministry is not a political movement, or entity. It is a bout doing the mandate of Jesus.

+Let go of your political ideals and focus on doing what is right. The synodal prayer is a wonderful resource.

* Social justice tries its best in working in conjunction with catholic charities.
* Social Justice Ministry meets once a month, on Mondays to explore current issues, and topics. It is an open forum.

+Suggestions: Explain before or after Mass, what Social Justice Ministry has been doing.

+Taylor got a lot of hate email when she first started the Ministry.

+human trafficking. Myrtle Beach is number in one in human trafficking. There is an impressive number of ways in which people are victimized.

+ The USA is the bigger consumer of human trafficking.

+Beach houses in our area are evidence of human trafficking: houses that can accommodate ten people, get stocked with 30 people.

+Jessica Barojas, our parishioners was a big contributor in the fight for the rights of the DACA beneficiaries. She was almost alone. We are in the position and responsibility to save lives, as Jesus did.

+Children of undocumented parents cannot go to university because they depend on their parents’ incomes.

***Second topic: Taylor***

* **Community Outreach Program** (Helping Hands) was born as a need to keep the participants of St. James Mission Team. Its goal is to help people who cannot take care of certain details in their daily lives. Sometimes, it is a very simple task people need help with. There are widows, elder people, or people with disabilities who need a helping hand.
  + The church has a list of professionals in different branches to take care of your needs. You can call the office and ask for their numbers.

***Third topic: Lory Videan***

* ***Prolife ministry***

+Promotes prolife awareness according to the catholic doctrine.

+Supports the youth in their prolife activities.

+Promotes prolife in matter of assisted suicide.

+January is the month of the big rally in Columbia (is a mile walk). If you go you don’t

need do the walk if you cannot. (It takes place on the first or second week of January)

+There are ways to participate in prolife activities in conjunction with other churches.

+October: respect life month. More things should be happening. Ideas?

* Baby shower activity is done at St James in October.
* Always looking for advice and volunteers (that offer an idea and go with it)
* Need to pray as a group
* We have a lot of young families with babies. We need to create a space for the baby picture.
* New liturgical year… new babies…. Pro-life wall (Lory) Lory and Kathy are working on it.
* Ask for the family’s baptismal pictures to post on the wall (this is pro-life action)
* Knights of Columbus. They enrich the liturgical celebrations with their presence and participation.
* St Clare’s home took more than ten years to get open. A group of nuns is running it. This is pro-life.
* The option of adoption vs abortion needs to be voiced in the Church congregation, and bulletin. Lory proposes to have that type of information once a month, if not weekly, in the bulletin.
* The murals in around the church are prolife as well.
* Schools have kids coming without coats, socks, underwear. If you have anything under size 14 contact Lory.

***More on Community Outreach: Holidays: Taylor***

**Christmas**

How can we make sure needy families get a gift, or assistance this Xmas?

* Gifts for the needed in the Christmas Tree.

***Concern:***

Attendance to the Town Hall Meeting- The younger generations are not attending.

* What can we do to attract them?
* Can we put the meeting on the website?
* We do post the minute on the website
* Pass the information from the Town Hall Meetings along to the community, in what way?
* **Ministry Fair**

--- The Welcoming committee is preparing a Ministry Fair in February.

* **Young adults.**

--- Raising kids is parents’ ministry. A reality is that young adults are not going to church anymore. The Young Adult Ministry’s goal is to provide a space to express their faith. They are not expected to change the world.

* **Couple support in group in Spanish is growing.**
* **Advent** starting at the end of the month (Nov 28).
* ***Thanks-Giving Mass at 10:00 a.m.***

December 12 Christmas Our Lady of Guadalupe Party. Everybody brings food. Bring your cultural dish.

Fr. Oscar’s Feelings.

The reality of St. James is multicultural. We try to combine cultures in some of the celebrations. The Day of the Day Altar was a motivation for some rigid members to complain. Don let that rob your peace. Don’t be disquieted. Learn about the meaning of the different cultures, if you don’t know about them.

**Deacon Tim Papa**: lead the congregants in a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.