Minutes of the St. Ignatius Pastoral Council Meeting
February 24, 2016

Present: Father Jim Casciotti, Eric Clayton, Augusto Frisancho, Sue Cesare, Nick D’Alesandro
Lauren Kelly-Washington

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:58 PM. Fr. Casciotti opened in prayer.

Approval of Minutes: No minutes were taken at the January dinner meeting because no
business was conducted.

Pastor’s Report

Accounting & Finances:

According to the 2nd QTR financial reports, expenses are $160,000 ahead of budget. This is
mostly due to the payment of some Fiscal Year 2015 bills in Fiscal Year 2016. Those accounting
issues will be addressed in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, which the Pastor is currently drafting.
All staff are monitoring expenses in order to adhere as closely as possible to the budget.

Early Learning Center:

The campaign for donations to the Early Learning Center has begun. Those donations will be
held by a new 501(c)(3) corporation that will be created to manage the Early Learning Center.
The Historic Trust Fund will continue to own the building that will house the Center, 801 St.
Paul Street. Fr. Casciotti will walk through the building with the architects so that we have good
specs for what is needed to renovate the space. The next step is to find out the cost of the
renovations. The Historic Trust Fund has $300,000 designated to renovate the building and get it
up to Code for its new use. If the Early Learning Center does not succeed, at a minimum, state-
of-the-art classrooms will be available for Parish use.

The Early Learning Center will start with 20 students (3 year olds) and increase enrollment each
year by 20 students until the permitted maximum of 59 students is reached. The hope is that
enough funds will be raised so that at least half of the students will attend on full scholarship,
and the tuition charged the rest can be set at less than the actual cost per pupil. The school will
operate 50 weeks/year, seven or so hours a day. A case worker must be employed as well as
someone to train parents in parenting skills.

Properties:

The building that formerly housed the Parish Offices, 805 N. Calvert, is on the market. Proceeds
from the sale of that property will go to the Historic Trust Fund.

The cost of the new roof on the church is up to $150,000 and construction will start in the spring.
Ignatian Volunteer Corps, currently using 801 St. Paul Street, will move to the third floor of the parish offices (110-112 East Madison Street/owned by the Historic Trust Fund) so that 801 St. Paul Street can be readied for the Early Learning Center.

Center Stage is currently renting the upper floors of the Annex (owned by the Province). In return, when its renovation is done, Center Stage will completely redo the third floor of the Annex, making classroom space available for religious formation.

Fathers Casciotti, Spahn, and Brooks are the current residents of the Rectory, 102 East Madison Street (owned by the Congregation), which will be upgraded slightly. Fathers Hamm and Watters are residing at Roland Avenue.

Three Nigerian nuns—Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy—are moving into 104 East Madison Street (owned by the Historic Trust Fund). The Superior has already moved in and works in geriatrics. They will be very active in the Parish, and are here indefinitely. The Superior wants to become the sacristan. One of the other nuns who is coming is a teacher; Fr. Casciotti hopes she can get a position at Sts. James and John. A diocesan priest on leave and an employee of the Jesuit Volunteer Corp also reside in 104 East Madison Street.

106 East Madison Street (owned by the Historic Trust Fund) is fully tenanted. Father Casciotti expects 108 East Madison Street (owned by the Historic Trust Fund) to be vacated in the next few months. The Early Learning Center may use the first floor of 108 East Madison Street for offices and the balance of the building may be used to host refugees, those in need, apostolic purposes, etc.

Because renters occupy a few of the Madison Street buildings, real estate taxes have increased by approximately $28,000/year. That amount is, of course, offset by rent. The goal is to consolidate the renters in two of the buildings, which will lower the tax burden. The buildings are tax exempt only if they are used by religious actually assigned to the Parish.

**Staffing:**

Deacon Paul wants to do more pastoral work so may in time move away from business management.

**Parish Planning:**

The Presbyteral Council has been given the preliminary results of the survey; we are still waiting for complete results.

The Jesuits have also put together an instrument to assess parishes that we will see soon.

**Ministries of the Parish:**

The Parish has many ministries, but concerns were expressed about the sustainability of some. Some ministries require more active members who are also willing to assume leadership roles.
The strengths of the Parish are in young adults, spirituality and justice and peace. The Council expressed a desire to invite more and new people to the liturgical ministry and questioned whether some ministries can be combined as subcommittees under a common umbrella.

Revision of Constitution and By-laws:

Council members are encouraged to review these documents to make suggestions and edits.

Open Forum

Loaves & Fishes: Augusto will provide Fr. Casciotti with three points of contact for potential volunteers. Over the course of the next month, Sue and Fr. Casciotti will be in touch with each of the team captains to address any issues.

Young Families/Youth Group: We need to figure out a way to include tweens/teenagers more actively in the church and give them a dedicated space. It can be something that involves the whole family—we need to remember that “young families” are not just the ones with toddlers. Sunday mornings are the time to hold such events.

Homilies: Fr. Casciotti’s homilies are well-received; he will cycle through all Masses.

6 PM Music: The issue of whether other kinds of music can be incorporated into the liturgy was discussed.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 23 @ 7 PM sharp. Edward J. Quinnan, S.J., the Provincial Assistant for Pastoral Ministries will be here to speak with us.