

St. Joseph Fundraising Committee 10/13/25 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Pete Zenner, Nancy Zenner, Father John Boiko, Martha Jeffcoat, Jean Darby, Eugene Holub, David Ehler, Dwayne David, Kenny Svercek.

Members Absent: Elvira Castillo, Candelaria Escobar, Zeneida Kelley, Felipe Pacheco, Javier Rivera.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Pete Zenner, chairperson in St. Joseph RE building. He asked Father John to start our meeting with a prayer. Father John also invited the Finance Council to meet with us to discuss the purpose of our committee. Members from the Finance Council that were present included Margaret Coker, Craig Snow, Rita Juergens and Tim Kelty.

Father John stated that our committee would look to the future and plan fundraisers. Committee members were selected from the three major organizations in our parish which includes the Ladies Society, the Knights of Columbus and Sociedad Guadalupeana. The purpose of this committee would not only be to raise funds for our parish but to also help us grow in faith and fellowship. St. Joseph Catholic Church encompasses more than just Rockdale but all of southern Milam County. We must prepare for growth ahead of time. We need to develop a plan for future fundraisers. Father John asked that we all introduce ourselves. After introductions, David Ehler mentioned that our Spanish community is not represented here on this committee. Pete shared the list of committee members and stated that a flocknote had been sent to all members, notifying them of the meeting date, time and location. Two additional reminders were sent. Pete only heard back from Zeneida Kelley that she would be unable to attend as she is presently out of the country. He will check with the other members to see how we can best improve communication with all members. The flocknote was only sent in English, not in Spanish. Father stated that we need a small group of people with resources. Each of us is here because we are concerned about our parish.

Father John and the Finance Committee excused themselves to conduct their own meeting. Eugene Holub shared that he had met with Father Bradford and had thrown out ideas for fundraisers. People were selected from the different parish organizations. When it became known that Father John was returning, we postponed our initial meeting so that Father John could be in attendance. Pete stated that we are in a leadership role and we need to encourage other members of our parish to become actively involved in a Fundraiser. He asked if everyone was okay with us sharing our contact information (email and phone number) with other committee members and everyone present, consented. We obtained this information for the ones that we did not have.

We discussed that we need more input from the parish community - this could be through a Google Doc survey or a paper copy for those that do not have access to Google Docs. Parishioners need to be kept aware of the minutes from the Parish Council and the Finance Council. We need to have more transparency on what is going on within our parish. Parishioners are more apt to become involved and help if they know what we are trying to accomplish, Eugene stated that the minutes from the Parish Council are posted on the church website. He also stated that we previously would post an agenda for the Parish Council so that parishioners could attend meetings if they so desired.

It was decided that we need to look at past history of our church fundraisers to see what worked well. Does it work better to have big ticket items and limit the number of tickets sold or to have smaller items money (gift cards and sell as many tickets as you can? Nancy stated that she felt if we did the big ticket items, that it would limit the number of parishioners that would actively participate and buy tickets. Dwayne David agreed. She mentioned at a previous parish, each family would receive raffle tickets to sell (20) and they could either sell them or buy them. We should strive to sell tickets outside of our church community. When they had a donation of a side by side vehicle years ago, they would load it up on a trailer and take it from church to church and sell tickets outside of our parish. Nancy stated that she would check with Tonya Sulak in Lexington about their recent raffle and how they handled it and how successful it was. She encouraged other committee members to do the same. David Ehler has been involved in many raffles and he says that having flyers that are placed throughout the community are helpful. Nancy Zenner suggested that we have a Hispanic member serve as co-chairperson with Pete so that we can help get input from the Spanish members of our parish and help develop cohesiveness between members.

Pete asked if they was a better date to do committee meetings. Everyone was okay with Mondays but asked that it not be the first Monday of the month. Next meeting will be in two weeks on Monday, Oct. 27th @ 7 PM. We will put a blurb in the bulletin letting parishioners know that we have created a fundraising committee and who the member are. Pete will follow up with those members that were not present about the next meeting date and time.

Eugene Holub led us in prayer before we closed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Recorded by Nancy Zenner