

Minutes for ACTS Core Team Meeting

July 2, 2012 at Mary Immaculate Rectory

Present

Ron Mouzis, Fr. Porfirio Rodriguez, Susan Castillo, Rosemary Moreno, Sal Barrios, Deacon Ken Elsey, Tom Elsey, Ricky Jones, Andrew Guerrero, Laurie Serrano, Rosie Cárdenas, and Sandy Klevinskas

Absent

Carmen Pernudi

Opening Prayer

Brief moment of silence followed by a prayer led by Sandy Klevinskas. Rosemary played Chris Tomlin's "How Great is Our God" and we all sang along.

Review of Last Month's Minutes

Tom motioned that we accept last month's minutes as-is and Sandy seconded that motion.

Open Floor to Non-Core

The following issues were brought to the attention of the Core:

- ✦ **Kathleen Greulich:** Speaking on behalf of the women's team, Kathleen wanted to know if the women need to purchase fish necklaces, Divine Mercy chaplet cards, and Coming Down the Mountain books. She informed us that the women's Commissioning Mass will be held at 10am at Mary Immaculate on July 8th. Azucena has reserved 80 tickets to the Guadalupe Celebration on August 5th and would like the bus info that we use for the retreats so they can reserve a bus. Ron suggested she check with the parishes, to make sure they arrive early for good seats, and to perhaps take their own food.
- ✦ **Carmen Torres:** Asked who she can get the towels for Footwashing to take them home and wash them, since her husband was head of Footwashing. Tom stated that they are in the trailer and he will get them out for her.
- ✦ **Gabriel Aguilera:** Suggested that it is probably necessary to create another ministry/service for the custodial services of cleaning up at St. Joseph Salesian, a task most of the Core admitted was overlooked in our initial discussion of the center. Rosie commented that the women are not going to want to pay to go on retreat just to be cooking and cleaning.
- ✦ **Carlos Martinez:** Explained that the concerns that he had brought before the Core at the last meeting were not an issue as expected on retreat and apologized for his directness. He also added that we standardize every aspect of the retreat. For example, as Head Steward he created a manual for the Stewards with all the detailed information necessary. He also asked about the team evaluations and whether they would be given an opportunity to give feedback. Deacon added that the men have never done that in the past. Rosie explained that women have always done it and that it is beneficial in improving both team formation and the retreat experience. It was decided that the men will do evaluations as part of their reunion.
- ✦ **Amateo Seno:** Asked whether the talks are a spiritual exercise for the giver of the talk or if they should just be the best talk for the retreatants. The Core answered that both were true. He expressed his concerns with the talks and that half of them were great, but that maybe some of the others could use some support during the writing process. He suggested that perhaps since we have a pool of talks that have been given we can have a mix of talks on retreat including a few great ones that have been given before as well as a few new ones. He and Mario Murillo wrote up an application for talks that we can use in the future. His other concern is the post-retreat follow-up and added that in speaking with Matthew Kelly at the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim he was told that perhaps focusing on the few retreatants that we perceive to be "game changers" and could benefit from the coaching toward becoming an active, dynamic Catholic to help engage others in our tri-parish community.
- ✦ **Larry Ruiz:** Suggested that the cooking crew be people who had already been on team so that their focus will be in the kitchen and not on the rest of the retreat. He added that they were great help, but that they should take the opportunity to be on team before being on cooking duty so that they can have the experience.
- ✦ **Joseph Montoya:** Explained that he had spoken with some of the Core members and others regarding the post-retreat follow-up, specifically Small Faith Communities. He expressed how important these are

in keeping the retreatants engaged in their faith after each retreat. He suggested that if we are not going to have SFC's that the Core needs to provide some sort of post-retreat follow-up for retreatants.

Men's Retreat Report

Ron commended the women for their support on the men's retreat. Deacon mentioned that no pictures were taken at Send-Off. Ron added that Carlos Martinez did a great job as Head Steward and that Larry Ruiz did a great job leading the Cooking Crew. He also stated that there was a slip in the kitchen and he has spoken to the retreat center about getting the flooring taken care of to prevent future falls. He also thanked Susan for helping out with purchasing the food and supplies. He also thanked Florencio Gurrola, José Cárdenas, Jorge Ortiz, and Rafael Sanchez for their work as directors on the retreat. He mentioned that there was a religious brother, a seminarian, and a diaconate candidate on the retreat with the men. He also thanked the Music Ministry and explained how great Stations of the Cross went using the grotto. Every ministry went great and that there were six priests helping out with Reconciliation including a non-Oblate priest Fr. Norm from St. Didacus.

Coordinator Reports

Each member of the Core gave an update:

- ✦ **Spiritual:** Susan explained that the cost of the food was estimated at \$40/person (\$4000 total) ended up costing only \$33/person (\$2975 total) including food, disposable dishware, and cleaning supplies.
- ✦ **Music:** Thanked those who helped out with music for Send-Off.
- ✦ **Financial:** Sal provided a financial report for the past month including \$14,914.14 in liabilities and \$22,421 in equity. The men's retreat came in at a total cost of \$11,362. He explained that he thinks we have enough to pay back the initial investment of the parishes. Rosie asked whether or not we need to pay the money back to the parishes. Fr. Porfirio clarified that the money is not missed by the parishes and that they don't expect it back. Andrew commented that once we have more money sitting in the account unused then the more issues will arise as to how to spend it. Deacon suggested that we perhaps give a payment to the parishes after each retreat. On another note, Sal added that in reading the Core Charter #7 he understood that we need to follow as closely as possible to the Charter in order to not reinvent the wheel. He stated that making any votes outside of a Core meeting is not a healthy thing to do. Tom asked what brought his attention to this situation. Sal explained that we had decided to use disposable dishware for the men's retreat and then later there was an effort to make another vote outside of the meeting to purchase reusable dishware. Deacon mentioned that it was his idea and that he had found a very good deal on dishware. Ron apologized for attempting to take a vote outside the meeting.
- ✦ **Supplies:** Danny suggested inventory at 7am on July 14th. He explained that we are acquiring more materials and that he is concerned whether or not we are going to have an issue with space in the trailer on the way back when it's packed with the luggage.
- ✦ **Support:** Tom stated that everything went well with the trailer, but that the trailer was very full on the way back and that Danny's concern is a valid one. If we decide to purchase reusable dishware that it will be an issue with space in the trailer. He added that the soy chorizo could've been an issue since some people are allergic to it and other foods. Susan explained that it was our first time cooking our own food and Tom suggested that we discuss it at a later date. Andrew suggested using the bus to transport the luggage to help out with the trailer issue. Laurie explained that families arrived very early for Candlelight and Ron added that we just need to fine tune our scheduling to prevent this in the future. Tom added that it's not our fault if the families arrive early when we've told them when to be there. Laurie also asked whether the parking situation was beneficial or not. She also asked how the Love Letters went. Florencio explained that the retreatants were permitted to go anywhere to read the letters and even so, nobody left the dorms. He also added that the dormitories provided a better opportunity for bonding between the men, both retreatants and team members.
- ✦ **Social:** Rosie shared that there will be a Bunko Night at Leticia Aroligas' home on July 20th.
- ✦ **Communication:** Ricky handed out a list of upcoming Catholic events in the archdiocese and proposed that we share this list with the community via email and on the website. He asked again that anyone who has not received ACTS emails or phone calls please provide him with updated contact information. He expressed an interest in the updates outlined in the Core Charter, specifically the changes in responsibilities. Ron explained that the charter is designed for 10-member Core teams and that we are a 12 member Core and that perhaps we should we speak to the pastors. Rosie asked that we speak about it at the next meeting.

New Business

- ⤴ **Dishware:** Deacon Ken proposed the idea of purchasing reusable dishware. Ricky asked about the storage options and whether that was included in the \$1,000 estimate Deacon provided. It was confirmed that the crates were not included. Rosemary asked if the cooks will also be washing the dishes and stated that safety is important as far as sterilizing the dishware before each use. Susan explained that it cost \$150 to purchase the disposable dishware. Larry added that the dishwasher at the center is industrial strength and will probably break the dishes, especially the glasses. Rosie explained the pros and cons of the two types of dishware. The disposable dishware is less labor intensive and more affordable. She added that the cleanup work required at the center is not going to be beneficial for most of the women. It was voted by majority not to purchase the reusable dishes at this date.
- ⤴ **Sleeping Conditions:** Susan asked how the sleeping situation worked out. All of the men were required to bring their own linens. Danny added that one of the retreatants had commented negatively about the mattresses. Rosie mentioned that she had heard that there were some generous donations of linens. Carmen Torres added that many of the men did not bring towels or linens.

Meeting Evaluation

Sandy explained that some things were drawn out and suggested that we need to table anything not on the agenda and add it on to the future agenda. She suggested that Ricky give a list of these items to Ron after each meeting. Ricky explained that we can do a better job of sticking to the agenda and that he will give the list of topics to Ron after each meeting to help out with this problem. Tom mentioned that he thinks we are getting away from the purpose of bringing people to God. Sal thought we were efficient. Rosemary agreed that we did get a little off track, but that she felt better knowing what the women were looking forward to at the St. Joseph Salesian in 2013. Susan appreciated the fact that we did get to make votes on important topics. Fr. Porfirio commented that he noticed a lot of energy and emotions during the meeting, but added that it was a good thing.

Facilitator Resignation

Ron announced that he is resigning from the Core for personal reasons stating that he is still going to be involved with ACTS as long as he can, but that he is worried that he is not giving the proper time and attention to his family and his health. He added that Deacon Ken had tried to dissuade him, but his mind was made up. Deacon explained that he had a revelation that Ron was going to resign. He had written that on a piece of paper and once Ron told him he showed him the paper. He was shocked that Deacon had known what he was planning to do. Ron thanked the Core for their acceptance and the pleasure of working with them.

Next Meeting

The meeting will be held August 6th. Tom will do the opening prayer and Laurie will do the closing prayer. Andrew will bring snacks and Danny will be bringing drinks.

Closing Prayer

No closing prayer was made due to the commotion after Ron's announcement and the size of the crowd.