

SAINT RAPAHIEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from November 26, 2018

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Betty Morse opened the meeting with a prayer. All members attended except MaryJo Downs (busy with Fair setup) and Therese LeFever (awaiting surgery). October's meeting notes were accepted as sent.

Cathy Coda reported for the Ad Hoc committee on the possibility of celebrating the Easter Vigil at Saint Gabriel's. The committee has arranged for a shuttle service by Durham Bus Service (pickup/drop off 7-11 PM) at Walnut Beach pending the approval of our application, which cannot be submitted until after 1/1/19. Cathy stressed the need for ample publicity through the bulletin and the newsletter for this innovative solution to the problem of limited parking at Saint Gabriel's.

Andrew Jorge spoke for the Ad Hoc committee on ministries. The committee (Andrew, Manfred Mohring, MaryJo Downs, Lou Servideo, joined by Pat Pavlucik) has decided to have a Ministry Fair and Coffee And the weekend of March 9/10 after all Masses. Staged at both churches the Fair will feature ministry representatives, signs, literature, all intended to acquaint parishioners with the many ministry opportunities the parish offers. The committee hopes to find people from existing ministries willing to speak briefly at weekend Masses the week before and the week of the Fair and will create a template for speakers to work from if they wish. In the 6 weeks leading up to the Fair we will publish ministry stories in the bulletin and in the newsletter. The Council discussed the need to be delicate in working to combine apparently duplicate ministries from both churches. As Deacon George pointed out, the ultimate objective of our ministries is to build the Kingdom.

There was a general discussion about the safety of groups who gather in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel, especially during Mass. Ultimately the Council decided not to lock any of the church doors during Masses. We are a worshipping faith community, where all are welcome.

It is important for the Pastoral Council to reach out to the parish community. To that end we post our meeting notes (once approved) on bulletin boards at both churches and publish information in *The Parish Press* and the bulletin. We hope to have the notes published on the website and to have a regular, designated section in the weekly bulletin. Because we want parishioners to bring their questions and concerns to us we are looking into setting up a Pastoral Council email (thus preserving the privacy of Council members).

Lou Servideo raised these points during Open Discussion: Father Rob's "tremendous" concert and the need for help with the Christmas Fair coming up on December 1. He also asked members to let him know at least 8 days before a meeting about items they'd like to put on the agenda. (Lou and the other officers meet w/Father John on the Monday prior to the meeting to review the upcoming agenda.) Manfred noted that CONECT offers valuable information that might benefit parishioners. John Marmolejo would like to see a focus on encouraging Mass attendance, finding ways to enroll new parishioners and making people welcome. Betty Morse reported enthusiastically that the GIFT program is making that happen. Father John concurred and mentioned the Bereavement ministry's practice of encouraging families to participate in the liturgy at funeral Masses, a way of getting them involved. What has been called "the new evangelization" is outreach through ministry. Like most parishes we see the need for youth ministry, something that is happening through GIFT and our RCIA program.

Pastor's Comments: 1) Father suggested getting covers for the missalettes at Saint Gabriel's, using a clever *show and tell* to demonstrate his reasoning. He'll order the covers; 2) Parish signage is currently on hold; 3) Members of Tinto Council recently cleaned the attic in the Parish House (Thank you!), a

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response to the insurance company's "Clean Your Attic" directive; 4) There are other needs for compliance, and we are still working on such major projects as alarms for Saint Ann Church and installing six fire doors in the Parish House; 6) Father and a 10-parishioner delegation will represent Saint Raphael's on Wednesday afternoon, November 28th when the Archdiocese of Hartford celebrates its 175th Anniversary with a Mass and reception.

In answer to a question, Father explained about this year's Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which falls on Saturday, December 8. Catholics must attend two Masses on that weekend, one for the Feast (Masses will be celebrated at 7 PM on Friday, December 7th at Saint Gabriel's and at 8 AM on Saturday, December 8th at Saint Ann's) and one for the 1st Sunday of Advent (regular Mass schedule).

The meeting closed at 8:16 PM.

Ann Eden
November 27, 2018