

SAINT RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from January 31, 2019

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Except for Trish Black, Martin O'Neill, Therese LeFever and Deacon Tom Cabeen, all members were in attendance. Jed Mohring led us in prayer. The meeting notes from December 17 were accepted as amended.

Lou opened his President's Remarks by thanking the Council for being flexible about the change of meeting night from the originally scheduled Monday, January 28th. He asked members who wish to speak but are not on the agenda please to raise their hands. Lou reminded members that meetings are to last an hour, or just over, and asked that we limit any presentation accordingly so that everyone can be heard. Issues that require lengthy discussion can go to an ad hoc committee that will follow up and report at the next meeting. He encouraged members to focus on the purpose of the Council, as outlined in Article II of our bylaws.

Stewardship Committee: Andrew Jorge reported April 27/28 as the new date for the Ministry Fair. Because GIFT will be meeting on that weekend the Fair will now move to May. Andrew will work with Monica Pang and his committee to establish a new date and will reach out to those who had agreed to speak about their ministries, advising them of the change. Melvin and Aurora Moral have kindly agreed to coordinate CoffeeAnd at the Saint Ann campus during the Fair. Betty Morse and Cathy Coda will find volunteers to do the same at the Saint Gabriel campus.

Easter Vigil: Lou reported that we have received permission to use the Walnut Beach parking area from these City of Milford departments: Fire Marshal, Police, Building Maintenance, Public Works and Health. Father John will work with the Archdiocese to obtain the \$1million indemnity policy the city requires. Durham Bus Service will provide no charge transportation for all parishioners to and from Saint Gabriel's from 7 to 11 PM on Saturday, April 20th. The \$150 deposit to Durham is due 2 weeks prior to the 20th. Beginning in March Rich Wheeling will submit write-ups for the bulletin and *The Parish Press*. Trish Black and Cathy Coda will create posters to be placed in the church vestibules. According to Father John, this "very proactive decision" to address and solve the parking problem and make it possible for us to celebrate the Easter Vigil at Saint Gabriel's is "one of the best things we've done as a Council."

Mission Statement: Lou, Andrew, John Marmolejo, Ann Eden and Cathy Coda had prepared drafts of possible mission statements. They will form an ad hoc committee to review and discuss the various statements and submit a proposal for consideration at the February meeting. **Any Council member who has a Parish Mission Statement should forward it to Ann (parishpress06460@yahoo.com) by February 7.** She will create a single document and circulate it to the entire Council for comment prior to the ad hoc committee's meeting.

Open Discussion: Ann reported that she, Betty and Manfred have been recruiting interested parishioners for the Prayer and Worship Standing Committee. Ash Wednesday falls on March 6, so the time is right to plan for the short term (Lenten events and programs) and for the longer term (prayer experiences and liturgical celebrations throughout the year). To date Cathy Coda, Rose Cox, Frank Elliott, Mary Lee Frisbie, Joanne Judd, Pat Pritchard and Yvonne Torsiello have signed on and Maria Tomasetti is available to contribute and advise. Ann, Manfred and Betty are still wearing their recruiter hats, hoping to add others to the group. They would appreciate input from anyone and everyone as they work to establish this important committee.

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What followed under Open Discussion: a heartfelt, occasionally contentious exchange of opinions about equity in bulletin and newsletter coverage of our two churches. Father John stressed that we are Saint Raphael Parish, no longer Saint Gabriel's or Saint Ann's. "Some people," Father noted, "want to hold on to an identity," but he and the Council have been working hard to help parishioners recognize our identity as Saint Raphael Parish. Father stressed that questions and complaints should be addressed to him. Father is willing to allow announcements at Mass with advance request.

Lou reminded the Council about: Eucharistic Adoration on Monday evenings (alternating between Saint Ann's and Saint Gabriel's); the Justin Kauflin concert on Sunday, February 3 at Saint Ann's; Tuesday evening Rosary at 7 at Saint Ann's and Men of Saint Joseph Tuesday evening meetings at 7 at Saint Gabriel's.

Father John's Comments: In response to correspondence, both letters and emails to pcsaintraphael@gmail.com: 1) Bulletins are no longer handed out before Mass at Saint Ann's because they constitute a "take-home package," a reference for parishioners about upcoming events. 2) Coverage for daily Masses in Father's absence represents "a difficult situation." Given the shortage of priests, coverage is not readily available. Note: Father will respond to signed, not anonymous, letters.

Father has named Jim Amann, Rose Cox, Pat Kurowski and Al May as potential delegates to the 2020 Archdiocesan Synod. The Archdiocese will choose two of the four candidates to serve as delegates.

The meeting closed at 8:00 PM.

Ann Eden
February 1, 2019