

SAINT RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from February 25, 2019

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All members were in attendance except Deacon George, who was presiding at Eucharistic Adoration. Lou led us in an opening prayer. Cathy Coda circulated Pope Francis's suggestions for fasting this Lent. The January meeting notes were accepted as sent.

Lou informed members that MaryJo Downs has resigned from the Pastoral Council. Her resignation was accepted with regret and understanding. We wish MaryJo well. As specified in Article VII of the Council bylaws, Lou, as chairperson, and with the Council's full approval, appointed Pat Pavlucik to fill the vacancy. Lou and Andrew Jorge spoke highly of Pat's invaluable assistance with the planning for the Ministry Fair and the Easter Vigil. (Welcome aboard, Pat!)

Stewardship Committee: Andrew Jorge reported the "The Ministry Fair is coming! March 30th and 31st!" Saint Raphael's has 38 active ministries. The committee has contacted 27 of them, and 23 will be represented at the Fair (possibly more as the date draws near). The committee will meet next week for "a last push" – logistics, signs, etc. Ministry reps will speak at Masses beginning March 15. "We are on track for a great Fair," Andrew noted, "and we will miss MaryJo." The Fair will be held on both campuses. Father John stressed the importance of the Fair as a means of recruitment and identity, recruiting parishioners to serve in ministry and identifying which parishioners are part of which ministries. We need that information in order to update the parish database.

Easter Vigil: Lou spoke about posters and notices in regard to the April 20th shuttle service to Saint Gabriel's. Trish Black held up the handsome signs she has created, which will be posted at both churches. Lou plans to be at the Walnut Beach parking area on the evening of the Vigil to assist however needed. He will check with Suzanne, the parish bookkeeper, about the deposit check for Durham Bus Company. Father John again called this effort "innovative, anticipating a difficulty" and offering a solution.

Mission Statement: Ann Eden presented a proposed Mission Statement on behalf of the Ad Hoc Mission Statement committee and thanked fellow committee members Andrew (Mission Statement Professional), Cathy, Lou and John Marmolejo for their hard work. The proposed statement represents our goal, what we want to accomplish as a parish. We can supplement that mission statement, as Andrew had suggested, with a Vision, articulating what we will do to achieve that goal. The Vision could incorporate the details that many members had included in the mission statements they had submitted for consideration. Lou was impressed that 10 suggested statements had been submitted. John sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit during the committee's final determination. Council members will "digest" the proposed statement and discuss its possible adoption at the March meeting.

Report: Prayer and Worship Standing Committee: Ann reported that 15 parishioners had attended the Committee's initial meeting on February 13. The group discussed its purpose, per the bylaws, established short and long-term goals and expressed additional concerns. (See separate report, attached.) Some of the committee's proposed activities will require collaboration from other Standing Committees, perfectly in keeping with the spirit of the Pastoral Council. The committee will meet again on Wednesday, February 27th at Saint Gabriel Hall.

Selection Committee Appointments: As outlined in Article VI of the Council bylaws Lou asked for volunteers to form a Selection Committee who will be responsible to manage all aspects of this year's selection process to fill the vacancies caused by members whose terms are due to expire. Rich Wheeling, Cathy Coda and Lou Servideo volunteered. Father John will send them a sample timeline of activities to help them in the selection process. (Andrew Jorge, John Marmolejo, Manfred Mohring and Betty Morse are the members whose terms expire in May.)

Open Discussion: Cathy raised the issue of "excessive emails" and asked members to refrain from using "Reply All" in response to Council emails, unless necessary. In response to a suggestion from Martin O'Neill, Father John reminded members that requests to add an item to the meeting agenda should go to the Council chair. Rich asked how to learn the "new" music that Therese and the choir have been singing at Saint Gabriel's, to which Deacon Tom responded with a smile: "Join the choir!" Father John clarified John Marmolejo's concept of consensus: it occurs when the body/group has accepted an overall decision; an individual might disagree with the decision, but concedes that he "can live with it." Consensus is not total unanimity. An issue with the parish website prompted Father to remind members again of the importance of our identity as Saint Raphael Parish. The former Saint Gabriel Parish website exists still because Our Sunday Visitor has not yet been able to merge the online giving programs of Saint Ann Church and Saint Gabriel Church.

Father John's Comments: 1) The Archdiocesan insurance provider will adjust the usual limits of coverage to meet the requirements for the shuttle service from Walnut Beach on the evening of the Easter Vigil. 2) A fire alarm system is being installed at Saint Ann Church. 3) The 2019 Archbishop's Annual Appeal will kick off this coming weekend (March 2/3). 4) Standing Committees other than Prayer and Worship (Education/Faith Formation, Parish Life and Human Concerns/Social Justice) should begin to meet. Council members who serve as liaison to those committees should brainstorm and kickstart ways to get them established. Feel free to check with Ann for suggestions.

Trish will serve as prayer leader for the March meeting, Manfred for April and John for May

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Ann Eden
February 26, 2019