

SAINT RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from March 25, 2019

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All members were in attendance except Maria Tomasetti. Trish Black led us in an opening prayer, the beautiful Prayer of Saint Francis. Martin O'Neill added heartfelt prayers for those who are suffering in our troubled world. The February meeting notes were accepted as sent.

Stewardship Committee: Andrew Jorge reminded the members (on the off chance that they hadn't heard!) that the Ministry Fair is scheduled for March 30th and 31st, March 30th and 31st! Lou and Cathy Coda, to much applause, held up one of the "Ministry Fair" signs that will be placed over the hall entrances. Andrew also noted the effectiveness of the smaller signs that have been on the interior doors/bulletin boards of the churches. (Thank you, Trish, our sign maker extraordinaire!). The speakers who've talked at Masses about their ministries have been very good; despite "some bumps," things have gone well. Fair setup is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th at 7PM at Saint Ann's and for Saturday morning, March 30th, time to be determined, at Saint Gabriel's. Cathy suggested engaging Confirmation candidates to assist, the time to be credited as service hours. Andrew has ordered T-shirts, "Saint Raphael swag," for those who have worked to make the Fair a reality. He reminded the group that the Fair will be held at both campuses, after every Mass. The Fair is a "great opportunity to find new members for ministries, to network, to reinvigorate the ministries. It shows that the parish is vibrant, that we have a lot going on." Lou described the Fair as a cross section of both campuses and stressed the importance of communication. He also thanked Father John for agreeing to purchase the large signs and for allowing the reps to speak at the Masses.

Report: Prayer and Worship Standing Committee: Ann Eden: latest committee meetings have been "in cyberspace." Current focus is on the April 3rd presentation of Lenten reflections by Father Charles Allen, an excellent and engaging speaker. Publicity has gone out to local media; flyers have been posted.

In answer to Father John's inquiry John Marmolejo reported that 35-40 people attended the March 19 presentation about Saint Joseph by Aaron Joseph. John had posted a YouTube video as an introduction prior to the presentation, during which Aaron encouraged people to be like Joseph. A "very good" presentation in Deacon Tom's opinion. Pat Pavlucik pointed out that there is not a lot of information about Joseph in Scripture from which to build a profile.

Report: Parish Life Standing Committee: Cathy reported that the committee has planned a Lenten meal for April 17th, 6 PM at Saint Gabriel Hall. Cathy, Lou and Pat are the committee at present; they are looking for more members. The reservation for the Lenten supper will be in the bulletin this weekend (March 30/31). Menu: soup, sandwiches, beverages, small dessert. Rose Marie Marmolejo has offered to make vegetable soup. The committee plans to approach Dennis at the Bridgeport Flyer for other possibilities. He has been generous to the parish in the past. Cathy issued a "warm invitation" to Father John and the deacons to join us at the supper.

Mission Statement: Ann opened the floor for discussion about the proposed Mission Statement. Comments ranged from "short and sweet" to "too general" with a variety of suggestions in between about the purpose of a mission statement, what should and should not be included. Consensus: the statement needs work; we should take our time; the committee should meet again; and anyone who has specific suggestions should be invited to attend the next meeting.

Ann asked that Council members send her their comments within the next week and indicate if they are willing to come to the committee's next meeting. Therese noted that "it would be wonderful" if the statement were ready by Pentecost.

Refurbish Saint Gabriel's Hall: Cathy circulated a sheet of recommendations for repairs to the hall, based on a February 28th walk-through. Work would include major repairs to the roof and floors, plumbing work, cleaning, painting, sidewalk repair. After Father John suggested that the parish might take on the project as a kind of in-house "HomeFront" project Rich Coda reached out to HomeFront with a formal request. Deacon George suggested getting an evaluation from the insurance company about a possible claim, something Father John will pursue. As a contractor, John offered to be available to work with the insurance company. Rich Wheeling liked the idea of doing the work "as a parish project," like HomeFront, but "for our own house." In discussing this year's project with Sean O'Brien, Executive Director of HomeFront, John asked whether the work might qualify as a HomeFront project. Because of the organization's public funding that seems a remote possibility.

Open Forum: Because the Council is "in its infancy" we excused ourselves this year from the Open Forum designated by the Council bylaws (Article IX). We have publicized the fact that Council meetings are open to parishioners as observers and we have set up and published an email pcsaintraphael@gmail.com (which the secretary checks regularly) that parishioners can use for communication and commentary. One suggestion: make a change to the bylaws in regard to Open Forum.

Easter Vigil: The shuttle service is in place: we have secured the permit from the City of Milford and the \$2 million required coverage from the diocesan insurance company. Lou and Cathy will be at Saint Gabriel's on Holy Saturday evening to make sure things go smoothly. Rich will do the same at the Walnut Beach parking area. Notices have appeared in the newsletter and the bulletin.

Open Discussion: John asked for clarification on the "liaison" aspect of Council members vis-à-vis the Standing Committees. Father John will look into an explanation and, in response to Pat's question, will look for contact information for those who want to comment on the bills pending in the CT state legislature re: assisted suicide. Lou commented on the March 10 Lenten reflections: Is Deacon Tom a better speaker or singer?! Lou distributed a survey and asked Council members to complete and return it prior to the next Council meeting.

Father John's Comments: 1) Work began last Friday at the Parish House: installation of 6 fire doors, 4 in the basement, one on each of the residential levels.. The work has required sealant on every breakage area. 2) Church fire alarm work progresses. Two phone lines (land lines) were installed last Thursday. A few Fire Marshal projects remain. 3) Father has prepared a timeline for the selection process for new Council members. It is a 6-week process, beginning with announcements the weekend of April 20/21 and concluding the weekend of May 25/26 when the names of new members will be announced in the bulletin. Cathy, Lou and Rich serve as the Selection Committee. Andrew Jorge, John Marmolejo, Manfred Mohring and Betty Morse are the members whose terms expire in May.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Ann Eden
March 28, 2019