

SAINT RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from April 29, 2019

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. All members were in attendance except Therese LeFever, Deacon Tom and Deacon George. Manfred Mohring read an opening prayer “for a greater vision of God in your own life.” The March meeting notes were accepted as sent.

Ministry Fair Wrap up: Andrew Jorge began his report with a one-word description of the March Ministry Fair: Great! Almost every ministry was represented at “a good first parish ministry fair.” The use of both halls was “critical.” Andrew smiled as he recounted remarks he had overheard from attendees: “So good to see you! Haven’t seen you in ages!” His committee’s suggestions from their follow-up session: Consider a different time of year; having speakers at Mass seemed very effective, something to consider on an ongoing basis; Commitment Sunday; Recognition of Ministry participation; Ministry highlights in the bulletin and in *The Parish Press*. He recommended the establishment/formation of a “Ministry Committee” going forward.

Lou asked about additional T-shirts in L/XL. Andrew will order them. Lou was very pleased to share that Linda Bahr, from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Fairfield, a visitor to Saint Raphael prior to the Fair, had called him to ask for ideas on having a similar Ministry Fair in her parish.

Lenten Meal Wrap up: Cathy Coda: 64 people attended the “very successful” April 17 Lenten Supper. The event garnered a profit of \$141.28, which will go into the parish General Fund. In the future, any profit can be designated for a particular effort/program, with advance approval and notification. Both Cathy and Lou thanked and praised the teens from T4S: “They were great!” Lou also thanked Cathy, her hard-working committee and Rose Marie Marmolejo, Maureen Hanson, Kathleen Buchanan, and Elaine Bataille. In the future, Father John suggested, a Lenten meal might be combined with another Lenten event.

Report: Prayer and Worship Standing Committee: Ann Eden: Father Charles Allen’s April 3rd evening of Lenten reflections was very well received. Father will be back as a speaker for the May 5 meeting of the Bereavement Support Group. The Council supported the Committee’s proposal for a Mass of Healing in coordination with the September 29 Feast of Saint Raphael. The Committee will meet again soon, following a pre-Easter hiatus.

Easter Vigil Wrap up: Lou: On the “good” side, 15-20 people used the shuttle service from the Walnut Beach parking area to Saint Gabriel’s. The bus driver was very polite. On the “bad” side, the area is very dark. Lou’s suggestion: Shuttle parking at Saint Ann’s for the Vigil in 2021.

Membership Update (Selection Committee): Rich Wheeling: The selection process for new Council members is underway. Information has appeared in the bulletin and the newsletter. Petitions have been included in the weekend Prayer of the Faithful. Nomination boxes are in place. (Rich “peeked” into one and was pleased at the number of ballots.). Father John offered to assist the committee with the upcoming orientation process. Rich, Lou and Cathy gladly accepted.

Open Discussion: 1) Manfred: 10 people came to set up the flowers for the Easter Vigil. 2) Rich: Some pews at Saint Gabriel’s are loose; Father John asked him to give the specifics/locations to Manfred. 3) Lou received a refund from the Christ the Redeemer K of C for the 5-6 parishioners who did not receive the palm crosses they had ordered at Saint Ann’s. The confusion does not reflect well

on our parish. Father John asked if the Saint Raphael K of C could offer palm crosses at both Saint Ann and Saint Gabriel next year. Rich will look into it. **4)** Maria Tomasetti: May 4/5 is First Communion weekend. There will be 10 First Communicants at the Vigil Mass, 4 at the 9:30 and 10 at the 11. **5)** “We’ve had a busy year,” Cathy announced, “and we deserve to celebrate!” She then circulated an invitation to a June 7th gathering for Council members at her home. Details will follow at our May meeting. **6)** Cathy shared suggestions she had received via e-mail: **a)** Special celebration next year in conjunction with Divine Mercy Sunday; **b)** Reception of Eucharist under both species. Father John intended to renew the practice but has found that there are restrictions he needs to resolve. He will continue to explore the issue; **c)** Parish survey? (No details offered.) Father John reminded the Council that we do have a Pastoral Council email (pcsaintraphael@gmail.com) through which parishioners can submit questions/comments; **d)** Activation of a Pro Life committee. Father asked for the names of parishioners who have been involved in Pro Life. He would like to see a group activated. **7)** Ann Eden reported that, contrary to Therese LeFever’s expressed wish, we will probably not have a Mission Statement in place by Pentecost. The project is ongoing. **8)** John Marmolejo reminded the Council about HomeFront Day, coming up on Saturday, May 4. There is a need for additional carpenters to join the 30+ members of the crew. Ann will send an e-blast through Google Groups to encourage more volunteers to call Carrie Nocerino and sign on.

Father John’s Comments: **1)** Change to the collection system at Saint Ann Church. The People’s Gift, the money donated at Mass to support the parish, the missions of the parish and the archdiocese, should be brought forward in procession, in the same way that the gifts of the Mass, the bread and wine, are brought forward. That system, already in place at Saint Gabriel’s, will be implemented at Saint Ann’s within the next couple of weeks. **2)** The recently installed Saint Ann Church fire alarm system passed inspection and is now fully active. A bit more work remains at the Parish House. **3)** We had a “fantastic Triduum.” Father was particularly impressed with the coordination of ministries between our two churches and thanked all of those who helped make the celebration so beautiful. **4)** Father has future options to present to the Prayer and Worship committee.

End notes: **1)** Betty Morse once again expressed admiration for the work of GIFT. “Parents used to drop their kids off for religious education and you would hope to see the kids and the parents again at Mass,” but it didn’t always happen. Now, whole families come and share a meal. Maria and Therese “do a wonderful job!” **2)** Cathy reminded Father John to check with our insurance company about the refurbishment of the Saint Gabriel Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Ann Eden
April 30, 2019