

SAINT RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from May 20, 2019

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All members were in attendance except Andrew Jorge, Jed Mohring, Therese LeFever, Deacon Tom and Deacon George. John Marmolejo's opening prayer was an abbreviated version of the Litany of the Saints - John chanted the prayers; Council members chanted the responses, all in Latin – followed by group recitation of the words of Mary that are found in the Gospels (Luke 1:46-55, John 2:4,6) The April meeting notes were accepted as sent.

Selection Process: Rich Wheeling gave a brief overview of the Selection Process for new members: information in the bulletin; an intention as part of the Prayer of the Faithful in the weeks before the close of balloting (Sunday, May 12). All nominees were notified and invited to the Sunday, May 19 orientation session. 13 nominees submitted Willingness to Serve forms.

The actual selection process began with prayer and a reading from Scripture (Acts 1:15-26) that reflects the Biblical roots of the selection by lot. As Father John pointed out, we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide the process. Various members drew from the “ballot basket” the names of our 6 new members. Albert May, Paula Demirjiam, Rose Marie Marmolejo and Tom Zawislinski will serve 3-year terms beginning in September, taking the places of members whose terms had expired (Andrew Jorge, John Marmolejo, Manfred Mohring and Betty Morse). Kathleen Buchanan will serve a 2-year term and Tom Jagodzinski a 1-year term, filling vacancies created by the resignations of Martin O'Neill and Jed Mohring.

Pat Pavlucik and Father John both noted the positive feeling created when so many people (some “new names,” Pat pointed out) wanted to be play a part in the life of the parish and expressed their willingness to serve.

Parish Life: Welcoming New Members: Pat proposed the formation of a parish Welcome Ministry, including an updated registration form. “We have a wonderful website, good communication and lots of ministries.” We should also have a welcome packet for all those who register with the parish. The Council agreed. Father John gave the idea his blessing: “Take it and run.”

Christian Lifelong Faith Formation: GIFT update: Maria reported that the GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) program is winding down. Pentecost Celebration 5/22 (with pizza and Chinese!); a Confirmation class 6/13. She circulated the 2018-2019 GIFT brochure and stressed that GIFT is not just for young people. Adults without children can learn and think about their faith. Maria is putting together materials for the year ahead. Theme: Following Jesus Through the Church Year.

Registration for both campers (ages 4-11) and volunteers ongoing for VBS Summer Camp (ROAR!, Life is wild, God is good), 7/22-7/26 . Young (age 12+) volunteers engage w/campers, assume responsibility; adult station leaders vital to make sure things run smoothly.

6/2 Graduation Celebration at St. Gabriel's for Class of 2019 (8th grade, high school, college/post secondary) Invitations have gone out. Responses beginning to come in.

Prayer and Worship Committee: Ann Eden: **1) May Crownings:** 5/19 at Saint Gabriel's went very well. Thank you, Rose Marie Marmolejo and committee; Crowning 5/26 at Saint Ann's after 9:30 Mass. **2) Corpus Christi:** Committee proposes a parish-wide celebration in 2020, including procession; not enough time for proper preparations this year; best to "start small and build"; information about the feast in June newsletter. **3) Mass of Healing (Including Anointing of the Sick):** awaiting Father John's selection of a date, close to 9/29 Feast of Saint Raphael. That Sunday ideal. Planning sub-committee in place. **4) Celebration to Honor Saint Raphael:** Triduum? Novena? Event w/food? Way to foster parish sense of family. Looking into pricing for Saint Raphael statue at each church. **5) International Rosary:** Rose Cox/Betty Morse organizing. Target date: 10/8 at Saint Gabriel's. **6) Mass of Remembrance:** Sunday in November (Father John's choice). Bereavement Ministry organizes. Invitations sent to families of those buried from Saint Raphael during year past and to parishioners known to have lost family members during the same period. **7) Divine Mercy Sunday:** In 2020 images to be placed in the sanctuaries of both churches; distribution of Divine Mercy prayer cards; parishioners encouraged to engage in works of mercy and charity. More education needed. **8) Triduum 2020:** At Father John's request committee had considered /discussed celebrating full Triduum, w/ Holy Thursday Eucharistic Procession and Adoration, at one church one year and at the other church the next. Committee unanimous in support of the suggestion. After a brief discussion the Council came to consensus: The change will go into effect next year. [Less confusing to celebrate in one church.] Education for parishioners needed here, too. **9) Other:** Wide ranging discussion re: education from the pulpit. "A few words from the pulpit" resonate with parishioners. Broad agreement from the Pastoral Council.

Human Concerns and Social Justice: John reported that the HomeFront team "accomplished everything" and finished the assignment "one hour early" on May 4. It "went well," but John felt there were not enough volunteers, especially those who stay through to day's end, and that we need to be more efficient in recruiting them. (Numbers are down from years past.) The team did not receive all the supplies they needed. (Bi-folds were not included.) He thanked Father John for stopping by; it meant a lot to the team. Maria mentioned that the teen volunteers "came away with a real sense of accomplishment." Father thought the work and spirit of the team were "amazing." Trish Black did some post-project PR, stopping briefly at Saint Ann's still clad in her paint-stained HomeFront shirt.

Open Discussion: Lou: **1)** Reviewed the results of the questionnaire circulated in April. Mostly positive responses re: willingness to serve again, agenda format, meeting length, growth in understanding of roles. Areas deemed to need improvement, e.g. length of time allowed for speakers, have been adjusted through the year. **2)** Shared list of the Council's accomplishments this first year, like the Ministry Fair, and of initiatives still in progress, like the Mission Statement. **3)** Melvin and Aurora Moral do a wonderful job with monthly Coffee And at Saint Ann's. Might we have something similar at Saint Gabriel's? (Cathy noted that the Saint Ann gathering is 2nd weekend of the month. She will work to establish a 4th weekend coffee hour at Saint Gabriel's.)

Father John's Comments: **1)** According to the termination letter, the weight lifting tenant was to vacate the premises on the upper level of the Parish Center by the end of May. Although Father John permitted the group to stay until the end of June, the tenant wants to extend through August. The Council discussed the matter and agreed: tenant must vacate by June 30. **2)** Father Patrick, who had come with Father Emmanuel during a recent visit from Uganda, so enjoyed his stay that he wanted to come back to "live and minister in a parish." He is here through May and June, a "delightful" visitor in the Parish House. He has been celebrating Mass and will be with us for Eucharistic Adoration in

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June. **3)** Brother Matthew, seminarian from Vietnam who was with us briefly last summer, graduated (cum laude) on May 17 from Divine Word College and Seminary in Iowa. Father was able to attend Brother's graduation ("so neat!). Brother Matthew has a summer internship in Arizona; may visit with us briefly after that before he goes off to Saint Meinrad Seminary in Saint Meinrad, Indiana to study theology, another step on his path to the priesthood. **4)** Five Saint Raphael parishioners will graduate from the Catholic Biblical School in June. **5)** Father John and Cathy Coda will meet w/ Archdiocese's insurance agent on Friday (May 24) at 11 re: proposed renovations to the Saint Gabriel Church Hall.

6) Father asked for volunteers to work with him on outside signage for our two churches (planning/zoning requirements, design, etc.). Committee: Rich Coda (Thank you, Mrs. Coda!), Rich Wheeling, and Manfred. Newly selected member Paula Demirjiam, a graphic artist, seems like a good fit for the group. Cathy will approach her.

End notes: **1)** Trish spoke from the heart about the "wonderful corps of people/parishioners who extend help when needed." **2)** Lou thanked all the outgoing Council members for their service, to a vigorous round of applause. **3)** Lou announced that Rich Wheeling has been named Tinto Council's Knight of the Year. Congratulations, Rich! **4)** Rich volunteered to be the Prayer Leader at the Council's next meeting on Monday, September 23.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Ann Eden
May 22, 2019