

SAINT RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from September 23, 2019

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. All members were in attendance except Cathy Coda, Pat Pavlucik, Maria Tomasetti and Deacon George. Rich Wheeling led us in the lovely and most appropriate opening prayer he had written.

Lou explained Pat Pavlucik's absence: She had fallen, broken her hip, undergone surgery and will be in rehab for at least a few days. He asked the Council to pray for her recovery.

Selection of Officers: Lou Servideo spoke for himself, Cathy Coda and Ann Eden expressing their willingness to serve again as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The Council reached consensus: Lou, Cathy and Ann will continue as Council officers. Father John commented on the "wisdom of keeping the existing slate," given the fact that half of the current members are new to the Council.

Selection of Standing Committees: Lou asked members to sign on as liaison to the Standing Committee of their choosing. Results: *Parish Life:* Trish Black, Paula Demirjiam, Tom Jagodzinski, Rose Marie Marmolejo, Lou Servideo and Tom Zawislinski; *Human Concerns:* Kathleen Buchanan, Rose Marie Marmolejo, Albert May and Rich Wheeling; *Prayer and Worship:* Ann Eden.

Mission Statement: Ann explained that because the 2018/19 Council had not been successful in formulating a parish mission statement the task has carried over to this year. She quoted from Appendix One of the Council's Bylaws about the *pastoral* characteristic of the Council, evidenced by its "development of an overall plan for the parish in order to make Christ evermore present to the parishioners and to the wider community." These members signed on to the committee which will meet to work on the statement: Rose Marie Marmolejo, Al May, Lou Servideo, Rich Wheeling and Tom Zawislinski (if needed). Ann will schedule a meeting for this group.

Standing Committee Reports:

Social Justice (Human Concerns): Rich Wheeling spoke for the committee. Over the course of two summer meetings (7/22 and 8/26) the committee has grown from 4 members (John Marmolejo; Al May; Elizabeth Simonetti, who has agreed to serve as committee chair; and Rich) to include Rose Marie Marmolejo, Maria Tomasetti and Liz Smethurst.

Elizabeth spoke in July about: New Haven's Pregnancy Resource Center; the Confraternity of St. Lazarus, which promotes the "dignity of death" for newborns and other ideas/programs the committee might promote. John suggested the need to promote education in regard to the doctrines of the Church. During its August meeting group members summarized the various efforts they support and reviewed Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* ["considered a foundational text of modern Catholic social teaching"]. The group will meet again in September.

Prayer and Worship: Ann Eden reviewed the events coming up for this committee: **1) Celebrate Saint Raphael** and its Triduum. She encouraged all Council members to attend the Mass that opens the Triduum on Friday, September 27, 7 pm at Saint Ann Church. Litany of Saint Raphael before Mass. Punch and cookies to follow. Triduum continues through weekend Masses, which will include special prayers to our patron. **2) Mass of Healing (Including Anointing of the Sick)** Sunday, September 29, 2 pm at Saint Ann Church. Committee still seeking medical professionals to assist as greeters/escorts. A bit of show-and-tell: Ann presented the id tags/mementoes (hole-punched Saint Raphael prayer cards strung with ribbons, a committee arts & crafts project.) **3) International Rosary** October 8, 7 pm at Saint Gabriel Church. Rose Cox, chair, has sent out publicity. Punch and cookies (a P&W

trademark?) will follow. **4) Mass of Remembrance:** Sunday, November 3, 2 pm at Saint Ann Church. Remembering all those buried from Saint Raphael during the past year and parishioners' friends/family members who have died during the same period. **5) Guidelines for Holy Communion.** An ongoing effort.

Parish Life:

Welcoming Package: Tom Jagodzinski reported for Pat Pavlucik. Three meetings have resulted in the following plan: A letter from Father John to new parishioners will mention that an information packet will follow. The packet will include: a history of Saint Gabriel's and Saint Ann's; contact information for parish staff/leadership; a magnet with pertinent parish information. (Tom distributed handsome samples.)

Website Review: Tabled in Cathy Coda's absence.

Social Gathering Team: (Lou Servideo) Group has had several meetings. Because a proposed Hallowe'en party did not work out the team has planned a 1st Ever Fall Kickoff Party (on Sunday, October 27 at Saint Gabriel's Hall). The team has also circulated a questionnaire re: parishioner preferences for social and spiritual events. (Limited response to date. Council suggested allowing more time, placing questionnaires at doors of the church.) Other ideas from the team's drawing board: Another Lenten meal; an Advent meal, whose price of admission will be a donation of clothing for the needy; a September/October 2020 Ministry Fair; another summer Parish Picnic. Lou passed along Deacon Tom's thanks for the gift the Council presented at the August reception in his honor.

Prayer Leader Selection: Council members signed on as prayer leaders for upcoming meetings: October – Rose Marie Marmolejo; November – Al May; December – Trish Black; January – Paula Demirjiam; February – Kathleen Buchanan; March – Tom Jagodzinski; April – Lou Servideo; May – Tom Zawislinski.

Open Forum: **1)** In answer to Tom Z's question about publication of Council members' names and contact information Ann responded that the names have appeared in both the bulletin and the parish newsletter and explained that the Council has an email (pcsaintraphael@gmail.com) that parishioners can use to reach members. **2)** Rich inquired about the proposed repairs to Saint Gabriel's Hall. (Issue currently stagnant.) **3)** Trish asked about announcements from the pulpit. Father John responded: We have very good communication through the bulletin, the website and the newsletter. Announcements at Mass are restricted to events happening that day.

Father John's Comments: **1)** The "spectacular success" of the Meet and Greet with Council members made Father decide to do a similar thing with different parish groups/ministries. Seeing the rectory, spending time with Father has the beneficial effect of "humanizing the priesthood." **2)** Nancy Vai has volunteered to take the "ministry mishmash" of information in the parish database and align it with the recently compressed list of ministries, eliminating duplicates and updating the information. It will now be possible to get a single, accurate list of parishioners participating in a given ministry. **3)** The city of Milford received and investigated a blight complaint about the former Saint Gabriel rectory site: crumbling foundation, "unsanitary, unsightly." Father John and John Judge met with the blight officer and gave him a "revitalized" plan from 2015 for a nicely landscaped parking lot with 22 spaces, surrounded by a high fence with a gate. The plan satisfied the city (no fine for blight), has been

SAINT RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL
Meeting Notes from September 23, 2019

approved by the Archdiocese and is ready to go out to bid. **3)** Father had a meeting re: the Hartford Bishops' Foundation, a private 501C3 corporation formed to benefit parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese. ("Hartford Bishops" is a term familiar to those in the Hartford area for heads of corporations, so-called "heavy hitters." Perhaps not the best choice of names.) The Foundation is **not** the Archbishop's foundation but a capital campaign being introduced gradually to parishes within the Archdiocese. Funds raised will be available to parishes. The plan: Each parish will have a fund-raising goal. 50% of funds raised by a parish will go back to the parish; the other 50% goes to the foundation and will be available as grants to fund parish improvements. Should a parish exceed its goal 80% of the amount over goal goes back to the parish. The Foundation has staged galas, e.g. at Waterbury's Palace Theater, the proceeds of which have been used for multi-faceted funding such as educational efforts, Catholic Relief Services. **4)** Father outlined some of his extensive research into reception of Eucharist under both species, a source of controversy among U.S. bishops. Based essentially on the General Instructions of the Roman Missal, which clearly looks at reception under both kinds as broadening the experience of receiving Eucharist, Communion under both kinds will resume at both Sunday and daily Masses beginning the first Sunday of Advent. Father plans to get dedicated chalices to use for distribution of the Precious Blood.

The Council will meet again on Monday, October 28, 7 pm at the Saint Gabriel Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Ann Eden
September 24, 2019