

**Saint Raphael Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Notes from October 28, 2019**

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. All members were in attendance except Maria Tomasetti and Deacon George. In her opening prayer Rose Marie Marmolejo asked the Holy Spirit to watch over and guide the Council as we work for the good of Saint Raphael Parish.

**Acceptance of Meeting Record:** Ann Eden asked that Council members review the meeting notes and get back to her with additions and corrections as soon as possible once they've received the notes. She would like to post the notes on the church bulletin boards and the parish website in a timely manner. Father John suggested that members let Ann know they've received the notes, even if there is no comment.

**Mission Statement:** The Mission Statement sub-committee (Ann, Rose Marie, Al May, Lou Servideo and Rich Wheeling) has been meeting in cyberspace, sharing proposals for the mission statement. They will meet face to face on Monday, November 4, to assess their progress and work to put together a proposal for the Council's November meeting. Tom Zawislinski, who had offered to serve if needed, has been excused from the committee.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Social Justice (Human Concerns):** Al May reported for the committee. Highlights of their activities: 1) As a spring activity the committee would like to engage a speaker to discuss the Gospel on Social Justice. Al asked Father John for ideas. 2) At John Marmolejo's suggestion the group is looking into support for Brian Bags, the Brian O'Connell Homeless Project. 3) The group encouraged support for Saint Gianna's pregnancy resource center in New Haven. The Christmas Giving Tree will have ornaments for donations to this cause. The committee will meet again on November 18.

**Prayer and Worship:** Ann reported on recent events: 1) The Triduum in honor of Saint Raphael (September 27-29) was well received. Special thanks to Al May for serving as lector at the Friday evening Mass. 2) The *Mass of Healing with Anointing of the Sick* on Sunday, September 29 was a beautiful, inspirational celebration. 80-90 people anointed, a far greater number than expected. Father John spoke about the emotions, from tears to smiles, that were evident and commended the healthcare professionals for their presence. 3) The *International Rosary* October 8, at Saint Gabriel Church was very well attended. Both Father John and Tom Z shared positive comments. 4) The annual parish *Mass of Remembrance* is coming up on Sunday, November 3, 2 pm at Saint Ann Church. Upcoming possibilities: a) Caroling as a parish-wide celebration of Christmas, a way of making our faith and joy visible to others. Possible date: weekend of December 21/22? Al May had good suggestions, which the committee will discuss at its October 30 meeting. b) a Corpus Christi celebration in June c) a Blue Mass in September. Father John commented on the importance to a parish of an active Prayer and Worship Committee.

**Parish Life:**

**Welcoming Package:** The Council welcomed Pat Pavlucik's return as she shared her committee's progress on the welcoming package. The group, now 7 strong, meets once a month in person and has a lively exchange of e-mails. Package contents to date: A ministry sheet; a letter from Father John to new parishioners; a history of the parish. The last item presents a challenge, given the long history of Saint Ann's and Saint Gabriel's. Nancy Vai, who is working on a parish history for the website, is functioning as an ex officio committee member. Other package items: staff/leadership contacts; a

Social Gathering info sheet; information on the parish Card & Gift Shop and the handsome magnet Tom Jagodzinski had distributed at the last meeting.

**Website Review:** Cathy Coda and Nancy Vai have been exchanging e-mails. Nancy divided the website pages and parceled them out among committee members to review and update. Once Nancy received the reviews she updated the pages. She has forwarded to the Welcome Committee the updated Define Active Parishioner page, which Father John had reviewed and tweaked. Also up to date: The Faith Formation page, the Contact Us and Directions pages, the Links and newsletter pages. The Pastoral Council and Mission Statement pages were reviewed and given the Okay. The Registration page is okay for now. Once the Welcome Committee completes the new registration form the group will see about replacing the current page. The front page has been "cleaned up."

**Social Gathering Team:** (Lou Servideo) 1) The October 27<sup>th</sup> Fall Kickoff went very well, weather notwithstanding. 15 young people enjoyed themselves. Lou acknowledged the great work of the committee; Nick and Emily Cruz have joined their ranks. 2) November's *Coffee And* (11/9 and 10) and *Coffee and Conversation* (11/24) will be dedicated to the Wounded Warrior Project. Attendees can contribute to the project if they wish. 3) The group is working on plans for a December 1<sup>st</sup> Advent luncheon. Details to follow. 4) The Choir Concert with Sarah Hart is scheduled for November 10 and 11. The choir has been asked to provide the music for the closing Mass for the Archdiocesan Women's Conference on 11/9. [Sarah Hart will be the keynote speaker for the conference.] 5) Lou has been in touch with Deacon Tom, who arrived safely in Oklahoma and has been introduced at his two new Stillwater parishes, Saint Francis Xavier and Saint John the Evangelist, the OSU chapel. The Social Gathering team will meet again on November 5.

**Open Forum:** 1) Tom Z inquired about the number of new parishioners. Pat was aware of 18 families in the past year. 2) Rich informed the Council that the K of C is considering a Saint Raphael scholarship for high school students. He will discuss the criteria with Father John. 3) Trish Black, speaking on behalf of the choir, reminded the Council about the upcoming concert. 4) Lou drew attention to the list he had prepared of ministries that fall under each of the Council's standing committees. 5) Cathy gave an update on repairs to Saint Gabriel's Hall: Roof repairs appear to have stopped the leaks – no puddles despite the weekend's heavy rain; waiting to hear about scheduling for the Park Avenue sidewalk repair; interior work will be next, possibly financed from parish funds generated in the Forward with Faith capital campaign that will be conducted under the direction of the Hartford Bishops' Foundation.

**Father John's Comments:** 1) Finances: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter financial report reflects a bottom line of +\$69,000, a number that includes a \$30,000 gift to the parish this year. Even without that gift we are ahead of last year's January-September bottom line of \$29,000. The Finance Council is considering moving a significant amount from the parish savings account (currently at +\$466,000) into the Archdiocesan investment account, managed by Bank of America and the only investment account permitted for parishes. It has a good track record and is very well managed. The parish will have to spend \$200-\$250,000 to settle the blight complaint and to pay for the planned parking lot at Saint Gabriel Church. 2) Nancy Vai's work on merging ministry data has reduced the number of ministries from 150 to 62. The list still needs pruning, since the names of participants have not been kept up to

date. Trish offered to assist with the process, checking on the accuracy of the altar server list. She will circulate copies with anyone who would like to help. 3) Jim Amann and Pat Kurowski represented Saint Raphael's at the Archdiocesan Synod meeting (October 25-27). Pat gave a very positive report to Father John, who encouraged Council members to go to the Archdiocese's YouTube channel to look for Synod coverage. (Al May asked if parishes can start their own YouTube channel. Father John: "The Archdiocese encourages the use of social media." 4) Father is considering how to streamline the online giving process so that all donations go through the Saint Raphael website, eliminating the separate accounts (Saint Ann and Saint Gabriel) that we've had since the merger.

Questions for Father: 1) Cathy asked about a timeline on the parking lot. Not yet available as the plans have not gone out to bid. 2) Al asked about a contingency plan for parking at Saint Gabriel Church should parking no longer be available at Costa Azzurra; no plan currently in place. 3) Lou reiterated Father's policy that announcements from the pulpit be submitted in advance in writing and pertain to events happening that day.

The Council will meet again on Monday, November 25, 7 pm at the Saint Ann Parish Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Ann Eden

October 29, 2019

Amended November 2, 2019