

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All members were in attendance except Tom Z, Trish Black, Deacon George and Maria Tomasetti. At Father John's suggestion Council members read together the Prayer at the Time of Pandemic from Pilot Printing. The March/April 2020 meeting notes were accepted as sent.

**Committee Reports:** (The Council had not met in person for over a year, but there was committee activity!)

**Social Justice (Human Concerns):** Al May: According to the March/April 2020 notes, as of its 3/2/2020 meeting the committee had put on hold its plan for a program to educate parishioners re: human sex trafficking. The committee was able to pull the program together: A Zoom presentation on January 26, 2021 that featured a 3-person panel and drew about 60 people, parishioners and non-parishioners. The committee plans to follow up and will use the weekly bulletin and *The Parish Press* to post facts about human sex trafficking in a kind of "Did you know?" format.

At its most recent meeting the committee discussed the USCCB's 2018 pastoral letter on racism [*Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*].

Council consensus: the program was well done and opened people's eyes to the fact that human sex trafficking is not simply a "big city" problem and is more widespread in Connecticut than many had realized.

**Prayer and Worship:** Ann Eden: The committee's plans for a Corpus Christi celebration and a Blue Mass during 2020 never came to fruition, nor did the optimistic plan for a "public Mass to celebrate the reopening of the churches for public worship." Positives under the Prayer and Worship "umbrella" since last March: live streaming liturgical celebrations from Saint Ann Church and posting readings, homilies and important messages via Google Groups. We've had good feedback. In addition to daily and Sunday Masses we've been able to live stream funeral Masses; friends and family who are unable to attend are so grateful for the live stream. (One family watched a loved-one's funeral Mass from Australia.). Father John noted that we've added 5 minutes to the time frame for streaming Masses and that Matt Downs has adjusted the camera for a better view of the crucifix.

Per Father John: Live attendance numbers at weekend Masses seem to be up but are probably 30% below the pre-pandemic numbers. Some 2020 weddings have been rescheduled for 2021. We've been flexible in our sacramental celebrations (First Communions, First Reconciliation). Scheduling Baptisms to meet social distancing regulations has meant both Saturday and Sunday Baptisms, at different times, at both churches, sometimes on the same day. (A bit of a challenge for Father John and Deacon George!)

#### **Parish Life:**

**Welcome Packet:** Pat Pavlucik: Packet had been submitted last year for Father John's review. "Well done," Father remarked. Next step: implementation, a post-pandemic project.

**Faith Formation:** Pat Pavlucik reporting for Maria Tomasetti: 76 families are registered for GIFT. 1/3 come to in-person sessions; 2/3 use Zoom. This year's theme: Living the Moral Life. There are 23 registered for First Communion, 25 for Confirmation. There will be a summer VBS camp July 26-30 which can accommodate up to 20 in-person campers; theme is Rocky Railway.

T4S (Teens for Service) hosted a successful drive-thru food collection as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring; donations went to Saint Gabriel's Food Pantry, Beth-El Center and the Milford Food Bank. On 4/24 the

teens will sponsor a drive-thru diaper collection to benefit United Way of Milford and Team, Inc. of Derby and a Spring Family Fun Night on 4/30.

**Parish Life:**

**Social Gathering Team:** Lou Servideo: Our previously planned activities – a parish picnic, family movie night, 3-day trips – were “snowballed” by the pandemic. We’ll try again when we can.

**Open Forum:** **1)** Lou would like to pursue the renovations to the Saint Ann kitchen as soon as possible. Mary Jo Downs has plans for a Christmas Fair (when possible!); renovations should be completed before that. Lou has not been able to reach the original contractor; he will follow up. **2)** Lou would like to put a Ministry Fair on the front burner for Council planning. General Council consensus: Very good idea, fall seems the best time for such an endeavor, fall of 2022 might be best. **3)** Cathy asked about the renovations to Saint Gabriel Hall; funds have been designated. **4)** Father John and the entire Council extend heartfelt thanks to all the parishioners who have done such a terrific job sanitizing our churches after weekend Masses. Great job! Thanks so much.

**Father John’s Comments:**

**Sale of Saint Gabriel School:** Father has received for signature the Consent Form, the last paperwork required before the closing. The Saint Gabriel School bingo group will donate their bingo equipment to the Knights of Columbus. Rich Wheeling noted that K of C bingo will open April 7<sup>th</sup> at Club 47.

**School vandalism update:** The Milford Police Department has identified suspects (juveniles) responsible for the damage. Father John has told MPD that he wants to pursue charges; he has not heard back from MPD.

**Inventory of school property:** An inventory of what needs to be moved must be completed before the closing. Saint Gabriel School items will be moved to Saint Ann School for storage in a dedicated area. Student records, which must be maintained, will be stored where similar records for Saint Ann School are kept. Trophies – and we have lots of trophies! – will be available to whoever wants them. (We’ll have a kind of tag sale with no prices.). Everything else will go into storage.

**Forward with Faith:** Members of the FWF committee have held one-on-one meetings with select parishioners. As of 3/22/21 we have raised \$250,000 toward our parish goal of \$555,000. Next is a public phase for the entire parish, which will not happen until after the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal.

**Holy Week:** Usual celebrations will be restricted. There will be no public blessing of palm, or processions on Palm Sunday. Both churches will be open all day so that parishioners can pick up palm, which will not be distributed during Mass. There will be no foot washing, procession or adoration on Holy Thursday. On Good Friday there will be general veneration of the cross by the assembly. Paschal candles for both churches will be lit at the Easter Vigil. We have no RCIA candidates or catechumens, so there will be no Baptismal Liturgy. [Note: All Triduum liturgies will be celebrated at Saint Ann Church, where they can be live streamed.]

**Catch Basin Repair:** Edo Construction has made repairs to the catch basin in the back parking lot at Saint Ann Church.

**Payroll Protection:** The parish received two (2) Payroll Protection payments, a total of \$94,000. Round 1’s loan has been forgiven. Round 2 should be forgiven also.

**Next meeting:** Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Saint Ann Auditorium. We need to set our calendar and schedule prayer leaders for the meetings. (We will resume our usual schedule, meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, September through May.).

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Ann Eden  
March 23, 2021