

Saint Raphael Pastoral Council Meeting Notes from April 26, 2021

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. All members in attendance except Deacon George. Council members read together Rich Wheeling's expressive Opening Prayer. (Note: prior to the start of the meeting Lou had asked members to sign up to serve as prayer leaders for meetings scheduled through May of 2022.) The meeting notes for March 22 accepted as sent. Lou thanked Maria Tomasetti for the attractive and socially distanced set up she had achieved in the Saint Ann Auditorium for this meeting and thanked Ann Eden for her consistently good job on the meeting notes.

Committee Reports:

Prayer and Worship: Ann presented a suggestion that originated with Lou: The Council have a Mass said for the intentions of the parish with all Council members in attendance. Monica has tentatively booked the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, June 6 at Saint Ann's (where it will be live-streamed). Members supported the suggestion. Ann will confirm the date with Monica.

Social Justice (Human Concerns): Al May spoke about H.B 6657 *An Act Concerning Human Trafficking*, currently before the CT state legislature. Among other provisions the bill, once enacted, would permit a defense if victims of trafficking are charged with crimes because of what they were forced to do as victims. Al encouraged Council members to ask their state representatives to support the bill. If passed, it would go to the Senate, then, if passed, to the Governor's desk for signature. Father John mentioned the good news that the assisted suicide bill died in committee during the current legislative session.

Parish Life:

Social Gathering Team: Lou Servideo: The team is in agreement that their plans for various activities are on hold until August/September when they reconvene.

Parish Life:

HomeFront: Rich Wheeling: HomeFront contacted John Marmolejo. The group is trying to put together a project for September 11. It's been "a couple of years" since there has been a HomeFront project. Rose Marie Marmolejo is working on a fund-raiser to support HomeFront, a dinner on a July Sunday (date not yet settled). She'll need volunteers to contribute, among other things, appetizers and at least 15 raffle prizes.

Possible new Parish Life Endeavor: Lou suggested that Saint Raphael Parish adopt and maintain a small Milford park, a project he anticipates would require work about once a month. As is the case with other small areas around town, ours would have a "Maintained by" sign, which would reflect well on the parish. Tom Z plans to call the Parks Dept. and possibly Public Works to check on available park spaces.

Faith Formation: Pat Pavlucik: Reviewing the PC by-laws, Pat took note of the description of the Christian/Lifelong Faith Formation committee and its emphasis on all faith formation programs in the parish. The present family faith formation program (now called GIFT) is in its 16th season. Pat cited other existing programs, not so well known, but definitely parish faith formation efforts: Spring Into Scripture with its monthly themes; Baptismal workshops; two additional Scripture programs (1 at Saint Gabriel's; 1 at Saint Ann's). Rich added Men of Saint Joseph to the list; Father John mentioned RCIA and suggested that these programs might be featured in *The Parish Press*, one way to bring them to the attention of parishioners. Pat will work with Ann to make that happen.

Faith Formation: Maria Tomasetti: Summer VBS July 26-30: In-person option for up to 20 campers; take-home camp also available. First Communion Masses are scheduled for May 22nd at Saint Gabriel's and June 19th at Saint Ann's. Because of the restrictions imposed during the pandemic we have gone back to Saturday 1st Communion Masses for the communicants and their families.

Open Forum: 1) Saint Ann kitchen renovation: Lou, Kathleen Buchanan (the "driving force" behind the project), Tom Z and MaryJo Downs have been working on the renovation. Notes: there is no need to

replace the stove; the water problem in the room behind the kitchen needs to be solved; the estimate for the work is awaiting Father John's approval.

Father John's Comments:

Forward with Faith: To date this multi-faceted fundraising campaign has received \$250,000 in pledges. Half of what we raise comes back to the parish. Money to be used for 4 projects: 1) Saint Ann kitchen renovation; 2) Renovations to Saint Gabriel Hall; 3) Live-streaming; 4) Parking lot behind Saint Gabriel Church. Money taken out of parish savings to pay for these projects can be replenished from what we receive from Forward with Faith.

Parish revenue: Funds have gone down during the pandemic, but on the whole we have done well.

Vaccinations: Father pleased: with one or two exceptions Council members have been fully vaccinated.

Vacation: After not having been away for more than a year, Father has scheduled a 7-day vacation. He will not be here for the May 22nd 1st Communion at Saint Gabriel's, but has arranged for Deacon George to preach. A Vietnamese priest friend will cover the parish during Father's absence. Because Father will not be here for the scheduled PC meeting on May 24th we have rescheduled that meeting to Monday, June 7th.

Thank you, Maria: "tremendous diaper drive." Teens were great; parishioners very supportive. Great job!

Piano move: Gifted with a beautiful August Forster grand piano, Peter DeMarco has made a "lifetime loan" of his personal Kawai grand to Saint Gabriel Church. Pearl River piano previously at Saint Gabriel now in the Saint Ann Auditorium. Father is very grateful; asked, "How many parishes have three grand pianos?!"

Sale of Saint Gabriel School: Tentative closing date: May 6th. (Nothing is definite until we sit down with the attorneys.). May 4th is moving day: anything we want to keep will be moved to the Saint Ann Parish Center. Cathy Coda is part of a committee that has gone through the records at the school. Records we must keep will go to a dedicated area at Saint Ann's (one classroom; the "Saint Gabriel Archives"?); the rest will be thrown away. School records will be in fireproof cabinets. Rich asked about exterior statues; their future to be decided. John Judge, Father said, has been overseeing the project and done a great job. The K of C has taken the Bingo equipment, which they've begun to use at Club 47.

Parking Lot Project: Stymied by the City of Milford's jurisdiction, which includes Shorefront (the "paper street") and the seawall, and the role of the Army Corps of Engineers. Until the complications can be resolved there is no time frame for this project. The recent storms have caused additional damage, and additional problems.

Al May inquired about the future of the Saint Ann School building: designated for parish use. No tenants. Trophies will be available to interested parties.

Lou circulated an updated PC roster, which includes the term extensions caused by the pandemic.

Next meeting: Monday, June 7th in Saint Gabriel Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Ann Eden
April 27, 2021