

**Saint Raphael Pastoral Council  
Meeting Notes from June 7, 2021**

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. All members in attendance except Deacon George and Maria Tomasetti Tom Jagodzinski's opening prayer asked that we approach the meeting and our deliberations in a spirit of joy and enthusiasm. The April meeting notes were accepted as sent.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian/Lifelong Faith Formation:** Pat Pavlucik: The GIFT program will re-open in September; all sessions will be on site. The VBS summer camp (Rocky Railway) is "looking good." Maria has planned two options: on site and take home.

**Social Justice (Human Concerns):** Al May, unable to attend the committee's last meeting, deferred to Rose Marie Marmolejo, who had been at the meeting, had no further activity to report, but did have an update on **HomeFront**. Team captain John Marmolejo is still waiting for the list of possible projects to check on for HomeFront day on September 11. Carrie Nocerino will serve again as project coordinator. The pork roast dinner fundraiser is set for Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Saint Gabriel Hall (Appetizers at 3:30; dinner at 4:30). Rich Wheeling and Rose Marie will take reservations after weekend Masses at Saint Gabriel's; Maria Tomasetti will do the same at Saint Ann's. Rose Marie is looking for donations of appetizers and desserts and of raffle prizes. The traditional "Bakeless Bake Sale" will also raise funds in support of HomeFront. Ann Eden encouraged members to buy lots of "tasty, no calorie treats."

**Prayer and Worship:** Ann: The International Rosary is planned for Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Saint Gabriel Church. We are hoping to "Celebrate Saint Raphael" on the Feast of the Archangels, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Parish Life:**

**Possible new Parish Life Endeavor:** Tom Zawislinski recounted a series of phone calls to various city departments in his efforts to check on small park spaces that might be available for our proposed "Maintain a Park" project. Responses were a litany of "leave a message," "someone will get back to you," "perhaps you should call (insert name)," etc. The Council agreed that we should drop the project.

**Saint Ann Kitchen Renovation:** Details from Kathleen Buchanan's report: The team (Kathleen, Tom Z, MaryJo Downs, Lou and Ann Servideo) met with the contractor to go over his proposal. Notes: **1)** The commercial stove needs a good overhaul, but need not be replaced; **2)** Countertops (Kathleen had samples of commercial grade materials under consideration) will be extended, additional shelving installed, main sink repositioned; **3)** LED lighting panels will be installed, along with a new fan and upgraded electrical outlets; **4)** Floors will be covered with a thin tile over the existing covering; doors will be adjusted to accommodate; **5)** The window will have tinted reflectors to allow for both privacy and ample light; **6)** Entire area, including entry and room behind the stage, will be professionally cleaned and painted (light grey walls, Nantucket blue cabinets). The contractor's proposed price: \$20,000. Prior to any work, the counters must be cleared, the cabinets must be emptied, and contents reviewed to determine what stays. Labeling of items and good signage are critical, especially since different groups use the kitchen. *None of this can happen, however, until we resolve the continuing water leaks and the ongoing grease trap problem in the building.*

**Additional Parish Life Notes:** Lou: **1)** Tag Sale committee has met and were unanimous in their decision that *there will be no Tag Sale this year.* **2)** After exploring the possibility of having a Christmas Fair (checking on the number of other fairs, etc.) the group decided: *No Christmas Fair this year.* **3)** We are hoping to have a parish fall festival of some kind. **4)** Lou posed the question, "What's in the electrical room?" as a prelude to asking for volunteers to assist MaryJo and her team in cleaning out what has become a catch-all space. **Cleanup will be on Monday evenings starting at 6:30 in the Saint Ann Parish Center.**

All volunteers are welcome. 6) Lou thanked Al May for serving as a collector at the June 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Mass at Saint Ann's.

**Open Forum:** 1) Cathy Coda commented on the absence of patriotic music at the Masses on Memorial Day weekend and asked how we can be sure to have patriotic music in the future. Father John acknowledged that patriotic music in church is a “touchy” and “very debatable, very sensitive” issue. When the priest and the music director prepare for Mass they are preparing to celebrate “the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time,” for example, and they focus on the music that is most appropriate for that liturgy, that worship service. Should we adjust our liturgy to meet others’ expectations? Because it is sung after the dismissal (“The Mass is ended. Go in peace.”), however, we can use a patriotic song as a recessional hymn. Some pieces, like the Navy hymn, seem especially appropriate. Based on our expressed concerns Father will talk with Peter about the issue. 2) Ann asked members to submit dates and times for upcoming events to Nancy Vai ([nancyvai@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyvai@yahoo.com)) for posting on the parish website and reminded the Council that the information deadline for the upcoming issue of the newsletter is Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. She asked, also, that members send her notes about events/stories that might be of interest to the parish family. 3) Kathleen asked about some *lovin’* for the shrubs on the parish properties. The lawn services don’t usually take care of landscaping. After a bit of discussion the Council agreed to look into hiring a landscaper. Kathleen will follow up. Lou mentioned that Bev Charland and Mary Laudenslauger do a fine job taking care of the garden areas at Saint Ann’s. Father John reported that Gerry Pfeiffer, who had tended the gardens at Saint Gabriel, has retired. We will look for someone to fill his shoes.

Lou reminded members of our next meeting: Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Saint Ann’s. “Please stay in touch.”

#### **Father John’s Comments:**

***Sale of Saint Gabriel School:*** The school was sold to the City of Milford for \$2.2 million. \$500,000 was taken off the top for brokers’ fees and outstanding debts. Father received a check for \$1.7 million. (He held it briefly, admired it greatly and deposited it, temporarily, in the parish operating account.) The parish will invest the funds in a PACT account, the Archdiocesan investment account, which is managed by Bank of America and is the only investment account permitted for parishes. Father had reported at an earlier meeting (October 2019) that PACT “has a good track record and is very well managed.” The Finance Council will work to build our PACT portfolio.

Prior to the closing a hardworking group of parishioners removed “everything salvageable” from the school. The tents, risers, trophies, other miscellany, and all the school records are now being stored in an upper level classroom at the former Saint Ann School, an area Father has dubbed “The Saint Gabriel Archive.” The Knights of Columbus “took everything related to Bingo – down to the daubers!”

***Forward with Faith:*** Today Father received a check for \$17,000, the first of what will be regular receipts of 50% of what’s been paid, not pledged, to the Forward with Faith capital campaign.

***Father John’s response to Council questions:*** 1) No holy water *yet* in the fonts. 2) We remain “stymied,” as reported last month, in our efforts to proceed with the parking lot project. A resolution is out of our hands. There is still no time frame for moving forward. 3) The Saint Gabriel Hall renovation will be our next project, funded by Forward with Faith. The Hall roof seems to have been fully repaired. (Note: Father commented on the “excellent” roof work that’s being done at Saint Gabriel Church.)

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Ann Eden  
June 8, 2021