

Saint Raphael Pastoral Council
Meeting Notes from September 27, 2021

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All members in attendance except Deacon George and Rich Wheeling. Council members read together Rose Marie Marmolejo's opening prayer, asking the Lord to shepherd us through the upcoming year. The June meeting notes were accepted as sent. Ann Eden will be away during the week of the October meeting and asked for a volunteer to act as secretary in her absence. Maria Tomasetti kindly volunteered.

Committee Reports:

Social Justice (Human Concerns): Al May reported that the CONECT Core team has "reconstituted" and will meet in October. The Social Justice Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19 from 5-8 p.m. at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. Fr. John will cover the registration fee. Anyone who'd like to attend should let Al know. Rose Marie reported that September's **HomeFront** efforts at 634 Naugatuck Avenue were "very successful" thanks to the "good group" and mentioned the help provided by the teens Maria had recruited. She noted that the work was done on VERY tall house and described captain John Marmolejo's tricky top-of-the-ladder painting moves. Rose Marie served dinner to the team at Saint Gabriel's Hall at the end of the day and the very grateful homeowners were in attendance. Father John asked Rose Marie to send pictures from the day to Nancy Vai for posting to the parish website.

Prayer and Worship: Ann: We will "Celebrate Saint Raphael" on Wednesday, September 29th, the Feast of the Archangels: Mass at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Ann's followed by "Breakfast to Go." Ann asked for additional volunteers to put together the B2G bags on Tuesday evening, the 28th. The International Rosary is on the calendar for Tuesday, October 5th at Saint Gabriel Church, with refreshments to follow at Saint Gabriel's Hall. Information has gone out to other parishes, via their bulletins and/or publicity flyers. Tom Zawislinski mentioned that the Tuesday Rosary group has been meeting at noon in the Children's Chapel. Ann added that the First Saturday Fatima Rosary will begin on October 2nd. Rose Marie is planning an Advent soup and sandwich event (date to be determined) whose entrance fee will be hats, scarves and mittens to be donated to those in need. Last year's donations to Boys and Girls Village, Cathy Coda noted, were "very much appreciated."

Christian/Lifelong Faith Formation: Maria gave the Council a GIFT faith formation program update: as of our meeting date, 53 families have registered (or are in the process of registering) for GIFT 2021-2022, including the sacramental program. 18 young people are preparing to receive First Reconciliation and 19 young people will prepare to receive First Communion. 18 teens are preparing to receive Confirmation in Fall 2022, with a few more families considering participation. One adult is preparing for Confirmation. One or two adults will be starting in the RCIA program in October 2021. Our Sacramental classes begin this weekend (Oct 2/3). We will begin our monthly GIFT program on October 22nd. The theme for the year is Prayer Life. The topic for October is Prayer and Forms/Styles of Prayer. We are not offering a standard virtual option this year, but will switch to virtual if required by the DPH and CDC for health & safety reasons.

Maria noted that some adult participation in the Sacramental program has come as a result of Pat Pavlucik's Baptismal Preparation program. Father John mentioned, with a smile, that interconnected programs, like Baptismal and Marriage preparation, very often feed the Sacramental programs in a parish. Al May was delighted to think that there might be candidates to receive sacraments during the Holy Saturday service in the spring.

Parish Life: Lou: **1)** Father John is receptive to Lou's suggestion that we have a Mass for healing during these troubled times. Ann will look into it with the help of the Prayer and Worship Committee. **2)** The "good" news: The Social Gathering team has scheduled Curbside Halloween for Sunday, October 31st from 1-2 in the St. Ann parking lot. Trish Black and Lou, perhaps with other volunteers, will distribute bags containing peanut-free candy to trick or treaters ages 4-12. **3)** The "bad" news: Concerned about Covid, particularly the Delta variant, the team has postponed all meetings and agreed to reconvene after the holidays. **4)** Lou thanked Trish, Tom and Kathleen Buchanan who have begun to serve as money counters. We need 3 additional people in that role. Laura Frutkin, chair of the money counters, gives excellent training and does good follow-up. **5)** Lou has requested a current financial report for the parish. Father John will take care of it. **6)** Lou has begun to form a Task Force, a group of parishioners who can do odd jobs, inside work around the parish, people we can call on for small jobs. Al and Kathleen will chair the Task Force.

Open Forum: Kathleen expressed concern about excess water on the flat roof over the Saint Ann Auditorium after recent heavy rain, especially given the age of the roof. Father John acknowledged that there has been a problem with leakage, but a roof review indicates that the damage to the stage area in the auditorium is caused by water coming through the flashing, not through the roof membrane. A repair to the flashing is on the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Finance Council. We are, in Father's words, taking one step at a time to make the proper repair; we "need to abate what's causing the damage," and the problem is with the flashing.

Father John's Comments:

Change in the Archdiocesan procedures for Confirmation: Starting this fall all Confirmations will be held at the Cathedral in Hartford, a way to demonstrate that "the Church is bigger than your parish." Saint Raphael candidates will be confirmed on Sunday, November 7, along with candidates from other parishes of the Archdiocese. 7 guests per candidate will be allowed, including the candidate and his/her sponsor. Archbishop Blair and Bishop Betancourt will preside at these Confirmations.

Pastor's Fiscal Review: Father John has completed the Pastor's Fiscal Review, required every three years by the Archdiocese. An outside accountant conducts the review on behalf of the Archdiocesan Fiscal Office and issues a report. The pastor must respond to the items noted in the report and indicate what actions he will take to make suggested corrections. "I'm fine," Father told the Council. "We're fine."

Saint Ann Kitchen Update: The final agenda item required a "field trip" to the newly renovated Saint Ann kitchen. Council members waited outside, then Lou, Cathy and Ann opened the doors and welcomed the members in for a TA-DA! Moment. They marveled at new flooring, gleaming countertops, excellent lighting, fresh paint, a complete reorganization - and bubbly and treats on the prep table! Lou then offered a heartfelt toast to Father John in honor of the 40th anniversary of his ordination.

Kathleen gave a brief tour of the renovated space, opening doors, highlighting the storage areas, the new features. The Council toasted Kathleen, the driving force behind the project (more than one person asked if she's available to revamp their kitchens), and Lou and Ann Servideo who, with Kathleen, worked extremely hard to bring the project to fruition. Well done, Kathleen, Lou and Ann!

The meeting adjourned on a high note at 8:03 p.m.

Lou reminded members of our next meeting: Monday, October 25th at Saint Gabriel's Hall.

Ann Eden
September 30, 2021