

**Saint Raphael Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Notes from February 28, 2022**

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. All Council members were in attendance and read together Paula Demirjian's opening prayer, a request for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit. January's meeting notes were accepted as sent.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian/Lifelong Faith Formation:** Maria Tomasetti: **1)** GIFT and GIFT Sacramental will be shifting to "masks optional" to mirror current school rules. **2)** 25 children are preparing for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. Saturday date options: May 14, 11 a.m. at Saint Ann Church; June 4, 11 a.m. at Saint Gabriel Church. Or: any weekend Mass on June 11/12. **3)** Graduation Celebration Mass and Reception (for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school and college grads and their families) Sunday, June 26. Mass: 11 a.m. at Saint Gabriel's; reception to follow (depending on current Covid guidelines). **4)** Summer VBS camp (*Jerusalem Marketplace*) for children 4-10 scheduled for week of July 25. Setup/decoration: weeks of July 11 and 18. **5)** C/LFF Committee to meet via Zoom in late March. Pat Pavlucik and Andy Jorge will facilitate. Agenda: review of current parish faith formation efforts; listening session to hear feedback from all participants. **6)** The Souper Bowl of Caring very successful: Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, the teens collected 75 to 80 bags of non-perishable foods, paper goods, cleaning supplies and toiletries to divide among Saint Gabriel Food Pantry, Milford Food Bank, Beth-El Center and Amistad Catholic Worker House.

Deacon George, under the C/LFF umbrella, reported that he will facilitate a Study of the Gospel of St. Luke using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, which has "fantastic footnotes." Dates/Time: Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., March 16 - May 11 via Zoom. Check the bulletin for details. Several people have signed up already.

**Prayer and Worship:** Ann Eden: **1)** March 2/Ash Wednesday schedule: Mass and Ashes: at Saint Gabriel, 8 a.m. and 12 noon; at Saint Ann, 7 p.m. Fonts will be filled w/holy water. Masks no longer required for those distributing Eucharist. **2)** Lenten reflection booklet, *Lent with Dorothy Day*, available at all church doors. **3)** Stations of the Cross: Fridays, March 4 - April 8, 3 p.m. at Saint Ann (live-streamed), led by Mary Lee Frisbie; 7 p.m., Fridays: March 25 at Saint Ann, April 8, Saint Gabriel. Led by teens using Ann Naffziger's *The Way of the Cross for Children* (appropriate for all ages). Links to various on-line/tv stations to be posted on the parish website. **4)** *Love Burns Bright*, a Lenten evening of music and reflection w/Amy Ekeh and the Saint Ann Choir: Sunday, March 27, 5 p.m., Saint Ann Church.

**Social Justice (Human Concerns):** Al May: **1)** The committee needs to schedule a meeting **2)** The Afghan Refugee Resettlement project is "moving along" somewhat slowly, looking to resettle 2 brothers, ages 18 and 24 from Massachusetts, brought to our attention through a group under the IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services) umbrella. (The required, but clearly necessary, rules, regulations and security clearances make the resettlement a slow process.). We've been collecting furniture and have a place for the brothers to stay initially. If all goes as planned they should be self-sufficient within 6 months. Saint Raphael Parish has donated \$1,000 in support of the project. Precious Blood Parish is also involved. The Milford Rotary donated \$6,000, matched by the Devon Rotary. Note: Chris George, IRIS Executive Director has been very helpful. Deacon George has engaged Chris in the past to speak to youth groups and suggested that Maria might consider reaching out to him as a possible Confirmation class speaker.

**Parish Life:** Kathleen Buchanan: The event committee for the March 18<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m. Lenten Supper, "a good group to work with," has planned a menu including committee prepared mac and cheese and Lasse's fish & chips. Lasse's will set up fryers for cooking outside the Saint Ann Parish Center. Peter DeMarco will be at the piano (We hope!) and the Saint Ann choir will sing. Father John and Deacon George will offer

reflections, part of the “simple but meaningful” event that is the committee’s goal. Tickets (\$10 adults, \$5 children 10 and under) are available after weekend Masses (or from Kathleen after the meeting). Reservation deadline is Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Lou:1)** The Social Gathering Committee at their 2/7 meeting discussed the possibility of a future trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA. **2)** MaryJo Downs has scheduled the parish tag sale for Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and the Christmas Fair for Saturday, December 3. **3)** Also on the calendar: a weekend Coffee And on April 23/24 in support of Boys & Girls Village. **4)** The volunteer Task Force has been working on cleaning and polishing the pews at both churches. As of our meeting date ¾ of the work had been completed at Saint Gabriel’s, while the work at Saint Ann’s should be completed by Ash Wednesday. **5)** With the expert assistance of Scott N, a certified electrician, Lou inspected and tested the exit lights and emergency signs at Saint Ann Church. Scott will repair/replace the units as needed to bring them up to code, a cause of concern during our last insurance inspection. **6)** The parish house needs some interior painting after leaks from an uncapped drain caused damage. That work is beyond the scope of the Task Force. We will hire an outside contractor. **7)** First floor fire doors at the Saint Ann Parish Center should be replaced.

**Open Forum: 1)** Tom Zawislinski suggested that the agenda for Pastoral Council meetings be posted to the website. (Items for posting should be sent to Nancy Vai.) **2)** Lou would like to have the Council’s meeting notes sent as an e-blast via Google Groups. Ann Eden has taken the suggestion under advisement. **3)** Lou asked about a parish Financial Report. Father John: “One will be posted next week.” **4)** Cathy Coda reported that the Saint Gabriel hall renovation has started with the ceiling tiles and will progress with patching and painting. Plans include enlarging the food pantry area by enclosing the existing alcove in the hall (and obscuring the current view of the freezers!). **5)** Lou expressed his thanks to Rose Cox and Cindy Sissick, who are so faithful in leading the Rosary before daily Mass at both churches. **6)** Cathy Coda presented an idea that she has discussed with Father John, one that is very close to her heart: a parish *family* picnic, where families, especially families with children, can come together, have food and fun and get to know one another as a parish family (She called it “planting a seed.”) She has a set a date – Sunday, June 12 – and has a location – the Saint Ann parking lots. (With some assistance from Sgt. John Kranyak of the Milford Traffic Division we could perhaps arrange to have Church St. closed for the afternoon.) Cathy got a very reasonable quote from Lasse’s (\$12-12.50 per person) for a “very nice menu” and talked about “kids’ activities for all age groups.” Maria will reach out to all the GIFT families, inviting them and asking their help. We will need assistance - not simply from GIFT families – for additional planning, set up, etc. **7)** Kathleen has a source to find roof workers, if needed, for the Parish Center roof.

### **Father John’s Comments:**

**Monday night Lenten confessions:** With the lessening of pandemic-caused restrictions we will resume the Archdiocesan-wide practice of Monday evening confessions. The schedule: Mondays, 6:00 – 6:30 p.m., beginning March 7 at Saint Gabriel and alternating between Saint Gabriel and Saint Ann through Monday, April 11. The Knights of Columbus will greet and welcome penitents and will distribute the K of C’s excellent brochure on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Altar Servers:** One especially sad aspect of the pandemic restrictions: no altar servers – with one exception – during Sunday liturgies. We have begun to reach out to “pre-pandemic” servers, inviting them to resume their important ministry. In the future, servers who are still in high school will wear a black cassock and white surplice; younger servers will continue to wear white albs.

**Saint Joseph Medal:** The Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation award ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, March 20 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford. A married couple from Saint Raphael will be among the recipients.

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***Saint Gabriel Parking Lot Repair:*** Repairs not possible until the City of Milford takes care of the seawall. Despite several inquiries the parish has had no definitive response from the City about the progress of the project. We remain concerned about the very real possibility of flooding if the repairs are not made soon. Suggestions from various Council members: Continue outreach to Chris Saley, Director of Public Works; Contact Mayor Ben Blake; Circulate a petition among parishioners to be submitted to the City; Generate a form letter for parishioners to sign and return individually to the City.

***Council member selection:*** Selection process will begin next month. Committee will work on setting up a calendar/timetable.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Ann Eden  
March 3, 2022