

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

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. All Council members were in attendance except Tom Zawislinski and read together Ann Eden's opening prayer to the Holy Spirit. February's meeting notes were accepted as sent.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian/Lifelong Faith Formation:** Maria Tomasetti: **1)** Last "all ages" GIFT session on "Prayer Life" is scheduled for April 1, 3 and 5. **2)** "All ages" GIFT theme for 2022-2023 will be Catholic Social Teaching **3)** First Communion and Confirmation preparation classes are still in progress. **4)** Pat Pavlucik and Andy Jorge facilitated March 21 C/LFF meeting on Zoom, a review of current Christian education/faith formation initiatives, followed by a listening/brainstorming session. All participants will receive a meeting summary. **5)** Summer VBS camp (*Jerusalem Marketplace*) for children ages 4 through 11, scheduled for the week of July 25, has been advertised in the bulletin, *Parish Press* and through emails to GIFT families. Families have been showing interest. Registration form will be emailed this week to all parish families with children ages 4 through 11.

Deacon George: the Wednesday evening study of the Gospel of St. Luke going very well. (Council members who are participating had positive comments.) Deacon George is thinking about the Gospel of Mark as a future topic and would like to do something similar in every holy season (e.g Lent, Advent).

**Prayer and Worship:** Ann Eden: **1)** Only a few *Lent with Dorothy Day* booklets are left. We've gotten positive comments. Kudos to Valerie Yergeau for her fine booklet selections. **2)** *Love, Burn Bright*, the March 27<sup>th</sup> program of music by the Saint Ann Choir and reflections by Amy Ekeh was beautifully done and well attended. **3)** Stations of the Cross: Friday afternoon Stations have generated positive response; 25-40 people have attended; 20+ live-stream viewers, a "regular" from MA and two "occasionals" from NJ. Mary Lee Frisbie wears a portable mic as she leads the Stations; readers speak from the ambo. Two presentations remain, April 1<sup>st</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Teen-led Stations, Fridays at 7 p.m.: March 25<sup>th</sup> presentation at Saint Ann, well done; had hoped for better attendance; April 8<sup>th</sup> at Saint Gabriel. **4)** This year's Triduum (Holy Thursday through Easter Vigil) will be celebrated at Saint Gabriel's. Three days chronologically, the Triduum is a single liturgical celebration. Celebrating in one church only is, according to Father John, "significant and appropriate." Matt Downs, our live-stream technical advisor, has figured out that we can live-stream from Saint Gabriel's through the camera at Saint Ann's. We will be able to live-stream the Triduum. [That man should receive an award! Oh, he did! Matt and MaryJo Downs were the parish recipients of the Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.) **5)** Upcoming May crownings: May 1<sup>st</sup> at Saint Ann's, following the 9:30 Mass; May 8<sup>th</sup> during the 11 o'clock Mass at Saint Gabriel's, when Jesse Greene will have the honor of crowning Mary.

**Parish Life:** March 18<sup>th</sup> Lenten Supper, Kathleen Buchanan: 130 tickets were sold. Lasse's set up fryers for cooking the fish and chips outside the Saint Ann Parish Center. Their crew: 3 servers and 2 cooks. The committee prepared the mac and cheese, while the parish bakers supplied the tasty homemade cookies. Lou Servideo welcomed the guests. Deacon George said the blessing. Peter DeMarco was at the piano and the Saint Ann choir sang. Due to a technical glitch ("Lesson learned. Won't happen next time.) Father John was not able to offer his reflections, but he assured the Council he had "saved them for next year." [Kathleen will hold you to that, Father!]

Lou: **1)** Great attendance at the Social Gathering Committee meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. **2)** MaryJo Downs and Cindy Sissick are looking into a trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA. **2)** Date of parish picnic changed to Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Cathy Coda will be looking for volunteers. **3)** MaryJo has scheduled an April 4<sup>th</sup> "sort and review" meeting for the committee working on the parish tag sale (scheduled for Saturday, June

4<sup>th</sup>). Additional volunteers needed. If you can help, please come to the meeting. 4) The Coffee And in support of Boys & Girls Village has been moved to May 14/15 and will take place at both churches. 5) Trish Black is working on a Family Movie Night, date to be determined. She's looking for suggestions, hoping for involvement from the parish teens. 6) The volunteer Task Force's project to clean and polish the pews at both churches, now completed, will be the subject of an article in April's *Parish Press*. 7) Lou and Scott have repaired/replaced exit lights and emergency signs at Saint Ann Church. Next up: doing the same for Saint Gabriel Hall. 8) Lou expressed his appreciation for the March 27<sup>th</sup> Evening of Music and Reflection. Amy's "Chair for Jesus" story was "beautiful."

**Social Justice (Human Concerns):** At May: 1) The committee will meet on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 in Saint Gabriel Hall. On the agenda: Coordination of Social Justice activities at both churches, to make sure they are *parish* activities. 2) Re: Afghan Refugee Resettlement project: The two young men from Afghanistan we had reported on last month are now renting a house in Hamden (\$1200/month), where they have relatives. The 16 year old has enrolled at Hamden HS; his older brother (formerly a property manager in Kabul) is looking for work and intends to send money back to Afghanistan so that his family can come here. The young men are working on gaining proficiency in English. (Cathy suggested that Literacy Volunteers of America could be helpful.) We are looking to hear again from IRIS about other placements. 3) Saint Raphael CONECT Core Team will have a "house meeting," open to all parish members, via Zoom on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. (Other CONECT churches to meet on other dates.) CONECT looking for personal stories about issues that people are dealing with/concerned about, issues that "keep them up at night" (mental health care, home care, education, crime, drugs, affordable housing, cost of living, etc.). Ideas to be passed along to CONECT as they consider their agenda for the coming year. More details to follow in April.

**Membership Initiative:** Lou: There will be a "post-meeting meeting" for the Selection Process team (Cathy Coda, Paula Demirjian, Tom Jagodzinski and Lou Servideo). Lou distributed the timeline/schedule for the process to Council members.

**Open Forum:** 1) Lou has asked all Council members to arrive at 6 o'clock for our April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting at Saint Ann's. He has planned a pizza party as a thank you for the Council's hard work this year. 2) Cathy added picnic details: Maria has emailed picnic information to GIFT families, who are "the future of our parish," hoping to get them involved as picnic volunteers/chairpersons. Cathy promises "more information to follow" and "It will be great fun!" 3) After Cathy said she has been asked about announcements at weekend Masses, a wide-ranging discussion ensued: One announcement per week? *Definitely* no laundry list. Only for things happening that weekend after Mass. We have a weekly bulletin; do we need announcements? For some visitors, announcements, such as the one for the Evening of Music and Reflection, feel like an invitation and make them feel welcome. Announcements should be judicious and intentional. They can, and should not, break the mood of the liturgy; people don't remember the closing prayer or blessing (the "beautiful prayers of the liturgy"), thinking instead about the message conveyed by the announcement. There was no definitive conclusion to the discussion; no action was taken. 4) Deacon George would like to have a blessing of animals starting this fall, on or around October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. The event would alternate between the two churches. 5) Deacon George will preside at a blessing of Easter Food on Saturday, April 16 at noon at Saint Gabriel Church. 6) Kathleen will meet on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, with the grounds work contractors about cleaning up the Church Street parking lot, removing hanging limbs and branches, etc. She will check with Bev Charland and Mary Laudenslager before asking the crew about mulch for the gardens. She sees a need for work behind the old rectory building, an area that might be used for VBS camp and the parish picnic and is concerned about pitting in the terrazzo floors in Saint Ann Church.

## **Father John's Comments:**

**Altar Servers:** Maria is working hard to recruit altar servers, and to encourage servers to return who have been away from the ministry. Allyza, Arthur and Austin Moral are serving again at Saint Ann's and will be wearing the black cassock and white surplice that Father John has designated for servers who are in high school. (Austin will qualify after graduation this year.) Two young boys will be training as servers at Saint Gabriel's.

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**EMHC ministry at Bridgeport Hospital, Milford Campus:** Father met with the chaplain at Bridgeport Hospital Milford Campus, who extended an invitation to Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to volunteer at the hospital. (What had been an active ministry at Milford Hospital had been suspended during the pandemic.). Volunteers, even those who had served at the hospital in the past, will probably have to have a background check and undergo training for a facility that is now part of Yale New Haven Health.

Father took the opportunity to talk with the chaplain about the Anointing of the Sick as a Sacrament of Healing, not a "sacrament of death." So often priests are called to anoint someone who may have been hospitalized for days or longer and is now at the point of death. The chaplain should educate the staff so that a priest is called early. Patients should be anointed as soon as they enter the ICU. Staff needs to know, also, that priests are "on call" for emergency anointing of the sick. (Father John, for example, is on call on Mondays and Thursdays.) If a patient wants to "talk to a priest" the staff should reach out to the patient's parish priest to request a visit. (Kathleen suggested that the Sacrament of the Sick would be a good topic for an article in *The Parish Press*.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ann Eden  
March 31, 2022