

Saint Raphael Pastoral Council
Meeting Notes from April 25, 2022

Lou Servideo called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m. – an early start following Lou’s 6:00 p.m. pizza treat. All Council members were in attendance except Al May and Rich Wheeling and read together Pat Pavlucik’s opening prayer asking for God’s grace and guidance. March’s meeting notes were accepted as revised.

Father John’s Comments:

Brother Matthew’s Ordination: Because Father John will be attending Brother Matthew’s ordination to the Transitional Diaconate on May 22nd, the Council’s May meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, May 24th at Saint Gabriel Hall.

Ongoing water problem at Saint Ann Parish Center: Despite completed repairs to the flashing, there has been an ongoing problem with water leaking into the stage area of the Center. Further investigation revealed the cause (and Father circulated the photographic evidence): the lack of sealant on the window wall on the building’s east side allowed rain to pour in. The repair will be cost about \$8,000.00.

K of C moving into the Parish Center: Tinto Council #47 of the Knights of Columbus has sold the building at 240 Naugatuck Avenue and will be moving to the Saint Ann Parish Center, where the Knights will continue their Wednesday night Bingo. (There will be no interference with our Faith Formation programs.). They will be sharing the kitchen (Food is part of the Wednesday Bingo program.) and will be responsible for kitchen cleanup. They will also pay rent, which will be income for the parish. In addition, the Knights will use one or two of the building’s upstairs classrooms (now vacant) as their clubhouse. Because the Knights are connected with the parish they will not be an outside tenant. (Father pointed out that many parishes make space available for their K of C councils.). The move will take place within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Easter Triduum: Father commented on the beauty of the ceremonies and the “miracle of cell phones,” which made it possible to live-stream the Triduum liturgies from Saint Gabriel Church. (Special thanks to Matt Downs, who figured out how to do that!)

Committee Reports:

Prayer and Worship: Ann Eden: **1)** The Triduum was beautiful, and very well attended. Three parish volunteers were part of the entrance procession on Holy Thursday that included the Presentation of the Holy Oils. Patti, Izzie and Kathy, who carried the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Holy Chrism and presented them to Father John, felt honored to have been a part of the procession. **2)** Many positive comments about Stations and about the 3 p.m. time slot. (Mysteriously, April 1st Stations were never live-streamed - scheduled, but not streamed. An April 1st thing? Complaints about that week’s debut of *The Way of the Cross According to Saint Paul*? We may never know!) Thanks and kudos to Mary Lee Frisbie for leading the afternoon Stations. Attendance averaged 30+ people in church, and as many as 22 live-stream viewers. Two different sets of teens read for the 7:00 p.m. Stations (*Praying the Stations with young people and people of all ages*) on March 25 and April 8. About 15 people attended and did appreciate the evening opportunity. **3)** Upcoming May crownings: May 1st at Saint Ann’s, following the 9:30 Mass; May 8th during the 11 o’clock Mass at Saint Gabriel’s, when Jesse Greene will have the honor of crowning Mary. **4).** The Prayer and Worship facilitator hopes to schedule a meeting in the near future.

Christian/Lifelong Faith Formation: Maria Tomasetti: **1)** First Communion make-up and special age-group classes continue, as do Confirmation classes and some special needs classes in May and June. **2)** Registrations coming in for *Jerusalem Marketplace* summer camp, scheduled for the week of July 25. We’ll use personal invitations to recruit volunteers (youths ages 12 and over and adults) in May and June. **3)** We are circling back to adults who have inquired about Confirmation/RCIA to confirm interest and timing for an Adult Confirmation program. **4)** Adult “Prayer Life” home kits, part of GIFT’s adult education component, will be available at both churches beginning May 14. Kits include many Catholic Update articles from Ligouri Publications on a variety of Prayer Life topics.

Parish Life: Lou Servideo (Social Gathering):**1)** Plans going forward for a Family Movie Night in June. No firm date as yet. Trish Black is working on the project, which will require a projector, a sound system and a screen. **2)** MaryJo Downs and Cindy Sissick still looking into a trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA. **3)** The Coffee And in support of Boys & Girls Village will be held May 14/15 at both churches. Lou has asked Nancy Vai about having the parish Card & Gift Shop open that weekend. **4)** The parish tag sale is set for Saturday, June 4th. MaryJo will need volunteers to help with this terrific fundraiser. **5)** The annual Pork Roast Dinner set for Sunday, June 5th (Reservations taken as of April 24th.) in support of HomeFront, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. Location not yet determined. **6)** Parish picnic on the calendar for Sunday, September 11th. **7)** Carrie Nocerino checking the possibility of a trip to Yankee Stadium to see the Yankees play the Mets or the Astros. **8)** Task Force still has work to do at Saint Gabriel, including putting a light in the kitchen. Lou and Frank DiBlase were able to dust the crucifix in the Saint Ann Church sanctuary. (Dust particles will no longer fall on Deacon George during Mass.) Next up: striking the lines at both churches.

Social Justice (Human Concerns): Cathy Coda read Al May's report: **1)** At the April 4th meeting the committee discussed the need to brand all parish Social Justice activities as Saint Raphael events, not Saint Ann's or Saint Gabriel's (the Saint Raphael Christmas Giving Tree, for example) in keeping with the *one parish/two churches* concept. The committee should be informed about upcoming projects that fall under Social Justice. **2).** Nursing home visitations may resume soon. (Maria gave an update: There will be an outdoor sing-a-long at Four Corners RCF on Saturday, May 21st.) **3)** Saint Raphael CONECT Core Team will have a Zoom "house meeting" on Monday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. and would like to hear from parishioners about issues that "keep them up at night" (mental health care, home care, education, crime, drugs, affordable housing, cost of living, etc.). CONECT will prioritize the ideas and create an agenda for discussion with candidates for office in upcoming elections. Contact Al (203-606-0994) for the Zoom link.

Membership Initiative: Tom Jagodzinski: The selection process for new Council members has begun, with extensive coverage in the weekly bulletin. The team (Tom, Cathy Coda, Paula Demirjian, and Lou Servideo) will continue to submit notices for the bulletin, encouraging eligible parishioners to "answer the call" to serve and will add a petition to the weekend prayers of petition as part of their campaign. Nomination forms must be in by Sunday, May 15th. The orientation session for new members (names drawn by lot) will be held on May 19th. Current members whose terms will expire in May are Ann Eden, Tom Jagodzinski, Pat Pavlucik and Lou Servideo. Trish Black announced her resignation from the Council effective at the end of this Council year, so there will be 5 slots to fill in May. Lou thanked Trish for her hard work and loyal service.

Open Forum: 1) Cathy Coda expressed concern about the outside steps at Saint Gabriel Church. Despite Manfred's "painstaking repair work" their deterioration has become a safety issue. Father John agreed that we may need an outside contractor to make the necessary repairs. **2)** Tom Zawislinki made us smile with a reference to a recent "Dear Abby" column. **3)** Lou mentioned Deacon George's Wednesday evening Zoom presentation on the Gospel of Luke, citing its "beneficial discussion" and "humor." **4)** Lou wondered about combining a ministry fair with the September 11th parish picnic. Father John: "They are two separate concepts." **5)** Kathleen Buchanan asked if Father had received the landscaping proposal for work on the Saint Ann Church grounds and reminded Father that a signed copy must be returned before the proposed work can begin. **6)** Cathy Coda is looking for parking possibilities for the parish picnic and wondered about the grassy area behind the former Saint Ann rectory.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.
Ann Eden
April 28, 2022