

Saint Raphael Pastoral Council
Meeting Notes from October 17, 2022

Cathy Coda opened the meeting at 7:00PM. Absent from the meeting: Terri Deveny, Andy Jorge, Deacon George Sartor and Maria Tomasetti. In Terri Deveny's absence, Cathy read the prayer Terri sent "An Ignatian Prayer for Decision Making Meetings". At Tom Z's suggestion, a moment of silence was observed to honor the slain and injured police officers from Bristol. September's meeting notes were accepted.

Father John's Comments:

- **1.** Discussion on the Church St parking lot-tree down and needing removal- John Kirkham offered his services for removal-some discussion on fall cleanup of church property-**2.** Father spoke of the PACT program which handles the Diocesan investments-there may be a shift away from PACT/Bank of America-**3.** Father thanked John Kirkham for his help in replacing the ceiling tiles in St. Gabriel hall, also the painter J Tippin who did the hall and the church and hall building front-**4.** Discussion on mass attendance-we are currently at 550 spread over the 4 masses. We don't see many children.

Standing Committee Reports:

Prayer and Worship:

- **1.** Cathy reported that the "Celebrate St. Raphael" mass was well attended and everyone loved the "breakfast to go" bags that were handed out after mass. **2.** Next up will be selection of Advent booklets to be available during the Advent season.

Social Justice/Human Concerns:

- Al May reported that the Committee had not met since before the Council's last meeting. Several members were planning to attend the Candidates' Forum being sponsored by CONECT (Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut) this coming Sunday at 3 pm via ZOOM. Information about this event was sent to the entire Council after the meeting. The Committee would also be involved in organizing the parish's

Holiday Giving Tree project at both St. Gabriel / St. Ann, making sure that project reflected the "one parish / two churches" theme, in terms of involvement of parishioners from both church and tree appearance.

Parish Life:

- Rose Marie Marmolejo shared plans for the Advent Luncheon to be held at **St. Gabriel Hall on November 20th immediately following 11AM mass.** In lieu of admission, all are asked to bring a NEW winter item (scarves, gloves, hats, socks, etc.) and a non-perishable food item or a toiletry item. Rose recognized Maria Tomasetti for her invaluable help with this project. **Reservations will open On Oct 29, 30 after all masses.**
- Christmas Fair December 3 St Ann's. Christmas items needed.
- November Coffee And to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. **November 12/13 after all masses at both churches.**

Faith Formation: Maria Tomasetti

- * We have approximately 50 families that have registered so far for our 2022-2023 faith formation program.
- * Our GIFT - Growing in Faith Together - program begins this weekend: Sunday, Oct 23 and Tuesday, Oct 25. Theme: Catholic Social Teaching. October Topic: Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- * Our preparation programs for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Confirmation are in progress.
- * Our RCIA program is in progress. There are two adult candidates, baptized as Catholic, who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.
- * 18 teen candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Sunday, October 30.
- * One adult candidate will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Tuesday, November 8.

Open Forum:

- Cathy Coda made a heartfelt plea for someone to step up and take on the secretarial duties and Wally Hauck answered the call! Cathy also requested that everyone respond when the meeting notes go out.
- Location change for meetings at St. Ann's-we will meet in the Parish House lower level office area
- Reminder to select your sub committee
- After discussion it was agreed that Tom Z. will pursue St. Raphael's inclusion in the Amazon Smile program
- Cathy reported that Fast Signs will handle our signage project. Waiting on proofs
- Father is waiting on a proposal from New England Masonry & Roofing Company in the continuing saga of water leakage issues in St. Ann School building. John Kirkham also offered to "go up and take a look" and weigh in on the problem.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM

Cathy Coda
October 18, 2022