

## **Saint Raphael Parish Pastoral Council**

### **Meeting Minutes 11-28-22**

Attendance: Kathleen B.; Cathy C.; Terri D.; Wally H.; Tom J.; Andrew J.; John K.; AL M. Father John B. Deacon George S.; John A.; Maria T.

Absent: Rose Marie M.; Paula D.; Tom Z.

Terri gave the opening prayer

**Minutes from October were accepted.**

### **Financial Report**

Mary Lee gave the financial report from January – September 2022 – **See Detailed PDF**

- Suzanne prepares the reports
- Questions were asked about the revenue comparison between 2021 and 2022; The answer was approximately the same or better
- The Other Income represents the investments of the Parish
- There is a possibility to research other opportunities to improve investments results
- The budget for 2022 planned for a deficit due to many factors
- Cathedraticum is now reported on the balance sheet
- The Capital Campaign Income will be invested according to the planned restricted obligations for example:
  - Live streaming
  - St. Gabriel Hall Renovations
    - Painting
    - Ceiling tiles
  - Parking lot
  - Flooring replacement

### **Father reported:**

- The roofing company made corrections and we anticipate the leaks are fixed

### **Prayer and worship:**

- Providing daily reflections for all to take as they wish
- Advent retreat will be held on the following two days (Father Maroney) Dec 4<sup>th</sup> St. Gabriel. Dec 5<sup>th</sup> St. Ann's

## Social Justice Report

- Coat drive was for Ukraine and was very successful. Committee member (Elizabeth Simonetti) suggested a winter coat drive for the people of Ukraine. With the support of the entire Committee and other parishioners, enough coats were collected to fill 5 pickup trucks, 3 SUVs and 1 step van. All donations were sent to Saint Michael The Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, which was responsible for shipping the items overseas.
- Committee members will be meeting next Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at St. Gabriel Hall with members of *All In For Milford*, a relatively new alliance of community leaders and neighborhood organizations working on housing, hunger and other issues here in Milford. The purpose of the meeting will be to explore possible avenues of collaboration between this group and our parish
- Our parish teens participated in the Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy project this year. A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoe box, donated and packed with small toys, clothing, school supplies and hygiene items for children ages 2 through 14. Items were donated by parishioners. Teens packed 34 Boxes of Joy, which were prepared for shipment, delivered to St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull (local drop-off center), and then shipped to Florida for safety inspection and distribution to children in developing countries in Central America, South America and other locations.
- Christmas visits to local health care facilities. We are scheduling several visits in late December and early January to help brighten the spirits of local health care facility residents.
- Fair Trade Table at December 3 Christmas Fair. There will be a table with fair trade items (chocolate, coffee, and craft items) from SERRV International, a fair-trade non-profit connected with Catholic Relief Services. SERRV's mission is to empower small-scale global artisans and farmers through long-term trading partnerships, helping them build **sustainable employment, resources, rights, and a vision of hope** in their communities. We've had a connection with SERRV in the past and are trying their "Trunk Show" option this year. 25% of each item sold will be donated to our parish
- The Committee is supporting the Christmas Giving Program, since all the recipients are parish families in need, parish food pantry patrons, or people in some type of need served by local agencies and organizations. Given the "human concerns" nature of this project, we would respectfully like the Council to consider moving the responsibility for this project from Parish Life to our committee for 2023.
- Milford's Way, the multi-church refugee resettlement project of which our parish is an active member, recently accepted its second family, this time a family of 4 (two adults/two children) from Senegal. They are staying temporarily with the chair of Milford's Way,

until suitable housing can be found. Once settled, there will be a need for both in-kind (furniture, household items, etc.) and financial support.

### **Parish Life:**

- Christmas giving
  - A total of 430 ornaments were placed on trees at St. Ann's and St. Gabriel's this past weekend. The ornaments represent 17 different organizations that we are supporting this year. It's requested the gifts be returned by Dec 11. Gift cards make up a large portion of the requests. There are also requests for clothing items, baby items, crafts, and toiletries. The parishioners of St. Raphael's are generous and make this event very rewarding for all.
- The Advent Luncheon to Benefit Beth-El and Food Pantry was very successful
- Veterans day "Coffee And" raised \$434 for Wounded Warriors Project

### **Faith Formation provided by Maria T.**

- Our third GIFT - Growing in Faith Together - session is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 11 and Tuesday, Dec 13. Theme: Catholic Social Teaching. December Topic: Call to Family and Community. Although most adults who attend are with children and teens, single adults and couples are welcome to participate in this program.
- We are also communicating with families this week and throughout Advent with information and activities appropriate for people of all ages. There will be an Advent/Christmas Activity Open House on Sunday, Dec 18 between 1 pm and 2:30 pm with age-appropriate learning centers for GIFT families and friends.
- 31 children (and parents/guardians) are currently participating in our First Reconciliation preparation program. First Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday, December 10 at Saint Ann Church, beginning at 1:00 pm. A few families have conflicts on Dec 10
- 18 teen candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Sunday, October 30. One adult candidate received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Tuesday, November 8.
- There seems to be some interest in a Spring Adult Confirmation preparation program. More to come on this.
- 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.
- Our Summer VBS Camp is scheduled for the week of July 24, 2023, Monday through Friday, mornings. The theme is Stellar! Shine Jesus' Light! Decorations will be space-related. Registration information will be distributed in mid-December; registration officially begins in January. Our first summer VBS camp was in 2011 with about 25 children. Prior to the pandemic, the camp grew to between 60 and 70 children--with an equal number of adult and teen volunteers. We're hoping families will feel more

comfortable registering their children this year. The camp is designed for children ages 4 through 10, sometimes 11.

- Parish teens met on Nov 3 and/or Nov 22 for several projects/activities: Filling Christmas Boxes of Joy, assembling food bags for parish families in need, sorting warm items from Advent luncheon, and assisting with switching Breaking Bread books. Some are helping with the Christmas Fair. Other teen service projects/activities are planned for December 2022 and 1Q 2023.

**Open Forum:**

- Signage update (for each church): Proofs have been approved, deposits have been paid, and the sign installation is imminent
- The website can be updated to include the Pastoral Council members and the Trustees
- December meeting will be on December 26<sup>th</sup> St. Gabriel's

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