

## **Saint Raphael Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes**

### **March 27, 2023, 7:00 PM Saint Ann Parish House**

Cathy Coda shared an opening prayer and then opened the meeting.

**In attendance:** Rev. John B.; Tom Z; Cathy C.; John A.; Kathleen B.; Maria T.; Wally H.; Rose Marie M.; Paula D.; Tom J.; Al M.;

**Absent:** Terri D.; Deacon George S.; Andrew J.; John K.

#### **Opening:**

- February 23rd meeting notes were accepted.
- Opening prayer by Tom Jagodzinski
- Moment of silence for the shooting in Tennessee

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

- Father encourages the council members to participate in the holy week activities.
- We identified 6 volunteers to have their feet washed on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Father Emanuel will be visiting the Parish in the month of May.
- Lou and Ann Servideo received the St. Joseph medal at a ceremony in Hartford CT.

#### **Standing Committee Reports:**

##### **Saint Raphael Parish Prayer and Worship Committee Report from Ann Eden:**

**Our Lenten Booklet of Reflections:** Alice Camille's *40 Days of Faith, Hope and Love* was very well received. Only a handful of copies are left in the churches.

**Stations of the Cross:** Good attendance at Friday afternoon Stations. Very poor at the teen-led Stations at Saint Gabriel's on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. This Friday we'll have 3:00 p.m. Stations at Saint Ann's (*Mary's Way of the Cross*) and teen-led Stations (*The Way of the Cross for Children* by Ann Naffziger) at Saint Gabriel's at 7:00 p.m. These Stations of the Cross are open to anyone who can attend in the evening.

**Lenten Retreat:** Great attendance at both sessions of *Following Jesus Into the Desert* (March 12/13, reflections by Fr. Maroney, music by the Saint Ann Choir). Our thanks to Father, to the choir and to Peter DeMarco, who was instrumental (how appropriate is that?!) in organizing this very special event.

**Weekly bulletin:** Suggestions (prayer, fasting, almsgiving) for a more meaningful Lenten journey will continue through this weekend (Palm Sunday).

**Triduum Schedule:** Based on our established alternating schedule, the Easter Triduum will be celebrated at Saint Ann's this year. The schedule is as follows:

April 6  
**Holy Thursday**  
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
7:00 p.m.  
Adoration before the Blessed  
Sacrament

April 7  
**Good Friday**  
The Celebration of the Lord's  
Passion

April 9  
**Easter Sunday**  
Mass of the Lord's Resurrection  
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church  
9:30 a.m.  
Saint Ann Church

April 8  
**Holy Saturday**  
Blessing of the Easter Food  
12 Noon  
The Easter Vigil in the Holy  
Night  
8:00 a.m.

**Social Justice/Human Concerns:** Meeting held on March 20, 2023

Present: Al May, chair, Kathleen Buchanan, Wally Hauck, John Marmolejo, and Manfred Mohring

Communicating Appeals for Disaster/ Ukrainian War Relief to parishioners:

Members discussed how best to handle requests from parishioners looking for directions on how to make donations. Parishioners are asking how to provide support to groups who are preferably local and are involved in relief efforts for earthquake / other disaster relief and victims of the war in Ukraine.

The group decided the best way to approach this was to publish information and updates on these groups in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter.

This would also include groups with which the parish has collaborated in the past or might in the future, such as The Underground (human trafficking) and All in for Milford (food insecurity). Father John and the council members all agreed.

Al will send information to Monica (weekly bulletin) and Ann Eden (monthly newsletter).

Parish garden:

Members discussed a proposal to create a parish vegetable garden on land near the St. Ann rectory. The produce would go to the parish food pantry during the late summer / early fall months. The committee and council all agreed this would be a good thing.

Father John shared there is no plan to sell the property. Other questions that need to answer include maintenance responsibilities, access to water and underwriting costs.

Other activities:

Upcoming activities in which parishioners might like to get involved or participate include:

- The planned Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>) celebration on the Green.
- Our annual Homefront project, scheduled for Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Maria Tomasetti also provided information on the following:

1. Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl collection is now underway.
2. Wednesday morning pickups from the Connecticut Food Bank for our food pantry.
3. Recent activities by CONECT, All In For Milford, the status of our “pizza to go” activities at Beth El Center, and a planned visit on Saturday, April 29 at 11 am. to Four Corners Rest Home for an hour of music and fun activities. All parishioners are invited.

For further information on this, contact Maria at [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (cell – voice or text).

Refugee project is going well:

- We have two brothers from Afghanistan who are working and sending money to their families.
- We have a refugee from Senegal who is also doing well.

Prayers for Milford Christian Academy:

Wally Hauck suggested we encourage all parishioners to pray for success of the Milford Christian Academy in their legal battle with the State of Connecticut over a vaccine mandate for children attending their schools.

A change in the state law (removing religious exemptions) mandates all children who attend their day care center be vaccinated even if those vaccines were developed using live stems cells from the kidneys of aborted babies.

Wally will write an announcement request for the Bulletin, Newsletter and Website. For details: <https://www.milfordmirror.com/news/article/milford-christian-academy-sues-state-vaccine-17832512.php>

### **Parish Life**

- Pork Roast dinner fundraiser is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Sunday after Easter (April 16) will be the start of the ticket sales. The committee is looking for new items that can be used for the Raffle prize table. Anyone interested in donating can contact me, Rose Marie at 203-378-5508.
- Crowning of the Blessed Mother will occur in St. Gabriel church on Mother's Day May 14<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of the 11:00 am Mass. The crown is being donated by Tom Croteau in memory of his sister. Jesse Kirkham will be carrying the crown to Michele Croteau who will place it on Blessed Mother.
- Volunteers are needed for Homefront scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact John Mamolejo or any of the council members to volunteer.

Lenten supper Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2023 was very successful:

The team was: Cathy Coda, RoseMarie Mamolejo, Pat Pavlucik, Kerry Scuito and Kathleen Buchanan  
We served 133 guests. 10 bought tickets and did not attend. We had some monetary donations and collected a total of \$1,338. The balance of the cost was paid by St. Raphael Parish (\$1,100).

It was more inclusive. We mixed both long and round tables.

Father John made a presentation (10 Action for Lent) without interruptions.

Lasse's did a great job with both food and service.

Donations of desserts, beverages, Mac and Cheese were much appreciated. We had just the right amount of food.

We received a lot of positive feedback, and we were pleased to see several young families in attendance.

### **Faith Formation: Maria Tomasetti**

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) etc.

- Our April GIFT theme is Catholic Social teaching, Care for God's Creation. Dates are Sunday, April 23, and Tuesday April 25. Adult parishioners who would like to try the GIFT program are welcome to attend as our guests.
- Our First Communion weekends are May 6/7 and 20/21. Families have the choice of any of our weekend Masses. 34 children are preparing to receive First communion. At least one of their parents also attends so they can continue important learning at home.
- Our teen Confirmation program classes continue into late June.
- We will also begin an adult Confirmation program in April. Adult candidates who complete the program will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 9 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph.
- We have a possibility of a GIFT Pentecost Celebration and Activity Open house on Tuesday, June 6, from 6 – 7:30 pm.
- Reminder of our summer camp, Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!, July 24 through July 28. Camper hours are 9 am to 12 noon. Our registration deadline is July 10. We're also recruiting volunteers, adults, and youth aged 12 or older.

### **Open Forum:**

- Need a nominating committee to identify candidates to join the council. There will be 4 new members needed.
- Abundant gratitude to John K. and his crew who cleared the parking lot at St. Ann's Church. We wish to thank him and his crew for an amazing job. We also express our sympathy and offer prayers for John and his father who passed. There will be a Mass dedicated to John's father on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM at St. Gabriel's Church.
- Pews at St. Ann's are being cleaned and repaired. Kneelers are being repaired. Other cleaning is also being done.
- St. Gabriel's Hall refurbishment is complete. The kitchen was also cleaned.

Next Council Meeting is April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in St. Gabriel's Church Hall