

Saint Raphael Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

April 24, 2023, 7:00 PM Saint Gabriel Hall

John Adams shared an opening prayer and then opened the meeting.

In attendance: Rev. John B.; Cathy C.; John A.; Kathleen B.; John K.; Wally H.; Rose Marie M.; Paula D.; Tom J.; Al M.; Terri D

Guest in attendance: Leo Dorsey

Absent: Deacon George S.; Andrew J.; Maria T.; Tom Z

Opening:

- March 27rd meeting notes were accepted.
- Opening prayer by John Adams

Father John's Comments:

- Father shared financial reports of Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet
- There is a report of a water leak problem in St. Ann's on the second floor. Father John will be investigating the issue.
- We are waiting for the city to finish the repairs on the sea wall at St. Gabriel's before the parking lot can be completed.
- Two weddings have been rescheduled because the new Tide Catering location will not be ready in-time.

Standing Committee Reports:

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

- We are planning to set a date for a healing mass.

Social Justice/Human Concerns:

The subcommittee has not met since the last Council meeting.

Milford's Way: The Afghan brothers are "thriving", secure and living independently. The younger brother, Israr, has jumped a year and will be a high school senior next year. We are hoping to find him part-time work this summer, like last year when he worked as a custodian in the school system. The older brother, Abdul, is now working at Amazon and supplements his income as a DoorDash meal deliverer. Permanent asylum status for both brothers is under review by the government.

Milford's Way is helping the Senegalese family who is also doing well. All expenses related to the housing, clothing and other needs are being covered by a generous gift from an anonymous donor. The family is living in a safe and secure apartment. Everyone is getting training on English as a second language. The mother is working in both a nail salon and at a catering kitchen in New Haven. This kitchen features various ethnic dishes from around the world, prepared by immigrants from those areas. The father works at a restaurant in Wallingford and enjoys playing indoor soccer.

Asylum papers have also been prepared for this family. Resolution of their status is expected within 5-6 months of this date.

Parish garden:

Parish Garden at St. Ann's. Elizabeth Simonetti continues to make progress in her efforts to develop a garden at St. Ann's to grow veggies for our pantry. She is currently looking for someone with carpenter skills to build 2 platforms to hold the water tanks for the drip irrigation for the garden. If you can help, contact her at elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com

John Marmolejo has volunteered to build the platform needed for the garden project.

Parish Life – Cathy Coda

The bus trip to see Sight and Sound production of Moses is scheduled for Aug 14-16. The bus trip to see Subway Series (Mets vs. Yankees) is scheduled for July 25. Please contact Catherine Coda <cathy.coda@att.net> for more information.

Faith Formation – Maria Tomasetti

- Our regular monthly GIFT program ends on April 25 this year. The topic is Catholic Social Teaching, Care for God's Creation. We welcome guests to join us on Tuesday night. Our theme for 2023-2024 will be The Sacraments.
- We are polling our GIFT families re: interest in an early June, weekday evening Pentecost Celebration/Activity Open House. The target date is Tuesday, June 6. We need a minimum of 10 to 15 families to register to achieve participation.
- Our classes for First Communion and Confirmation are ongoing. We are planning for 34 children to receive First Communion in May, primarily at our regular weekend Masses on May 6/7 and May 20/21.
- Three adults received Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. One baptized Christian was received into the Catholic Church and received Confirmation and Eucharist. Two baptized Catholics received Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Three adults are preparing to receive Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Tuesday, May 9.
- Our annual parish Graduate Recognition Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, June 4, 9:30 am Mass. It will be followed by brunch in the "Saint Ann" Parish Center Hall. We will recognize grade 8, high school and college/post-secondary school graduates. We have started to receive RSVP's for this event.
- Plans are underway for our 13th annual Summer Camp for children ages 4 through 10/11. This year's camp is called Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light! and will incorporate a space theme. Registrations are now coming in and will be accepted until July 10. We are recruiting new and returning volunteers, too!
- Four additional children/preteens are interested in helping at Mass as altar servers. Deacon George will be scheduling a date for the initial training.

Social Gathering - Rose Marie Marmolejo <rmarmolejo@snet.net>

- Next on our agenda is the Fundraiser for Home Front which is May 21st, 2023. The actual project this year will be held on September 16th, 2023. A volunteer dinner will follow at the end of the day. We are looking for volunteers from both campuses and we will have volunteer forms available soon. Maria Tomasetti always has a few young volunteers which will be helping to clean up the landscape areas under the guidance of Tom Croteau, Maria also works with the youth along with Tom.

- We already have begun taking reservations and Rose Marie Marmolejo had a good reception of interest and reservations collected after the 11 o'clock mass on April 16th.
- Rich Wheeling will do the 8 a.m. mass next Sunday, April 23rd and Rose Marie Marmolejo will attend the 11 o'clock and already have people requesting tables.
- Pat Pavlucik and Kathleen Buchanan, are taking reservations at St. Ann's, Rose Marie brought their poster on Saturday April 22 for their advertisement and placed one also at St. Gabriel.
- Elizabeth Kirkham sent our design and my information to Walgreens in Milford where we purchased and then delivered them. She will be assisting in our poster designs.
- Michele Croteau and Tom have purchased all the table covers and decorations. which will once again be creative and lovely. We are looking for donations for the raffle prize table and will be stating this in the bulletin soon. We will ask Pat and Kathleen to also mention the need.
- Our friends from the Home Front State office are looking forward to attending and will give a little talk along with John Marmolejo. Last year Lou Valenti and his wife Dina, from the Home Front office, both attended. Lou gave a very nice talk and complimented our team's great work, and loved the dinner which he said he looks forward to yearly. In his talk, Lou complimented our teams from St. Raphael Parish as one of the most successful and he is pleased that John and the other contractors work so well together.
- John has not yet been given the houses to evaluate as they have so many requesting help that they need to narrow it down and he will get those (3) sometime in May. When we know the actual house, we will be working on, we will update you. This will most likely be at next month's meeting along with the information on the actual dinner.
- Carrie Nocerino and Rose Marie have talked, and she has been most cooperative in being the On site Coordinator which she goes above and beyond with the extras she donates. Carrie also assists with some of the landscaping and does a great job with her creations.
- Please contact **Rose Marie Marmolejo** rmarmolejo@snet.net if you have questions.

Nominating Committee

The committee (Cathy Coda, Paula Demirjam, Tom Zawislinski, and Al May) met and created a selection plan, timeline, and a communication process.

The request for nominations started April 15-16 and will continue until the weekend of May 6-7. Nominations will be finalized and notified the week of May 8th. At each mass (from April 15 to May 7th) there will be a Prayer of the Faithful. Requesting nominations and petitions.

On May 22, 2023, three new members will be selected by lottery to serve three-year terms on the Pastoral Council. The Council advises our Pastor in areas such as worship, faith formation, social justice, and parish life.

Open Forum:

Next Council Meeting is May 22nd at 7PM in St. Ann's Parish House