

Saint Raphael Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Notes

September 25, 2023, 7:00 PM St. Gabriels' Church Hall

In attendance: John Adams, Cathy Coda, Paula Demirjam, Leo Dorsey, Terri Deveny, John Kirkham, Frank Lacerenza, Roe Marie Marmolejo, Al May, Rev. John Brinsmade, Deacon George Sartor, Joyce Marlow

Absent: Absent: Maria Tomasetti, Wally Hauck, Tom Zawislinski

Opening:

- Opening prayer by Cathy Coda
- May meeting notes were accepted.

Officers The officers will remain the same.

- Chair-Cathy Coda
- Vice Chair- Rose Marie Marmolejo
- Secretary-Wally Hauck

Father John's Comments:

- Father spoke of a busy October...Priest convocation, a mass for the co-adjutor Father Coyne, who will replace Archbishop Blair when he retires
- Confirmation will beheld on October 29

Standing Committee Reports:

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

On September 16th, St. Raphael Parish family worked another Home Front project as they have for the last 22 + years. This year we were at 38 Hobson Street in Milford. Captain John Marmolejo and Richard Wheeling led a group of nearly 50 including many youths under the tutelage of Marie Tomasetti.

Carrie Nocerino was on site coordinator and garden director with Tom Crouteau assisting. Michele Croteau directed the painting, and the painters were able to paint the entire house. The home also required filling holes in the yard, landscaping, planting, and clearing brush and weeds.

The workers in the yard needed to be careful with poison ivy and sumac by wearing protective clothing and gloves. Some of us still caught the irritating infection.

The job commenced at 7:30 AM with prayers led by John Marmolejo followed by a light breakfast. The work was completed at about 7 PM. A dinner, prepared by Rose Marie Marmolejo followed with about 40 people in attendance. Photos were distributed by John to the participants and to Ann Eden to be placed in the next newsletter.

Home Front leadership attended and commended the entire group with another job well done. John was contacted by a Jewish couple who offered to help, and they were welcomed with open arms.

We all have much pride in our parish family who made another project a total success.

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dates noted with * are tentative, awaiting verification.

- Celebrate Saint Raphael: Friday, September 29 Continuing our recent tradition of “Breakfast to Go” following the Mass for the Feast of the Archangels, this year at Saint Ann Church.
- Healing Mass w/Anointing of the Sick: *Sunday, October 1, 2:00 p.m. at Saint Ann’s. Date seems most appropriate, closest Sunday to the Feast of Saint Raphael.
- International Rosary: Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m. at Saint Gabriel Church. Rose Cox has booked the date w/Monica. We will recite Pope Saint John Paul II’s Rosary for Peace. Reception to follow in the Saint Gabriel Hall.
- Mass of Remembrance: *Sunday, November 5, 2:00 p.m. at Saint Ann Church Sunday closest to All Souls’ Day.
- Advent: Begins Sunday, December 3. Advent booklet for parishioners. Other suggestions will be a topic for discussion at a future P&W meeting.
- Lenten Speaker/Retreat for 2024: March 10-12 (Peter DeMarco is coordinating this event) Sunday afternoon at Saint Gabriel Church. Monday and Tuesday evenings at Saint Ann Church

Social Justice/Human Concerns:

Meeting Notes September 18, 2023

Attendees: Al M., Elizabeth S., Manfred M., Maria T., Wally H., John M.

Guest: Melissa Simoni, our Development Coordinator Development Coordinator, Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services; BHcare, Inc.
North Haven, CT

Purpose:

1. Educate the committee about BHcare Inc. and identify options for how St. Raphael’s Parish can assist to prevent domestic violence and/or mitigate the effects for those impacted.
2. Learn from the garden project.
3. Update the committee on the All In for Milford meeting

BHcare discussion:

- Possible opportunities for helping BHcare are:
 - Christmas giving Program (Under the tree);
 - Afterschool program;
 - Donations can be made at “My Sister’s Place” thrift store.
 - Family pizza night at the church.
 - Information can be share in the newsletter and bulletin.
- Rachel Schippiani the Program Educator from BHcare will attend our next meeting on October 16, 2023 at St. Gabriel’s Hall at 7:00 PM to answer additional questions to help our committee make decisions about how and if we can help.

Garden Discussion and seasonal debrief:

<p>Positives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent yield• The plot can be used again• Little or no bugs• Crops that grow in colder weather are being planted now• We can keep the same space• All food served the St. Gabriel’s food pantry	<p>Opportunities for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need a lighter easier to handle hose. John M. identified one.• We need to set up a compost area. Perhaps pallets from a local store can be used.• Fertilize next year.• Change some vegetables for next year.
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All in for Milford Discussion:

- Al M. and Elizabeth S. attended this dinner on August 3rd at the Woodruf YMCA.
- The purpose of the meeting was bring together all food pantries in Milford and improve communication and cooperation.
- A question was asked, how do we help those who are using the food pantry regularly to become more independent and possibly grow their own food (help them learn to “fish”). No answer was given and this may be a possible opportunity.
- The committee suggested we include the Milford Food Assistance Resource Guide into our next bulletin.

Parish Life – Cathy Coda

Cathy Coda reported the bus trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA was a complete success.

The Parish Picnic was a success despite monsoon like weather 155 people attended.

Cathy stated she would like to establish a goal for the coming year to review the list of parish ministries and try to clarify, streamline, and consolidate ministries. An ad hoc committee was formed to delve into this. Joyce Marlow, Terri Deveny, John Adams, and Cathy Coda will serve on this committee.

Faith Formation – Maria Tomasetti

- Our 2023/2024 GIFT program will focus on the Sacraments. The October GIFT program dates are Sunday, Oct 22 and Tuesday, Oct 24. GIFT registration is still in progress so the number of registered families will be shared in October.
- Our scheduled Sacramental program overview meetings for First Reconciliation/First Communion and Confirmation were held in September. Sacramental program classes for children and teens will begin in October.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation for our 14 Confirmation candidates is scheduled for Sunday, October 29 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, beginning at 2:00 pm.
- Three adults are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, November 7 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, beginning at 7:00 pm.
- Our RCIA program will begin in early October. So far, we will have four adults and maybe one teen preparing to receive Sacraments of Initiation.

Open Forum:

John Kirkham is tackling the job of signage reflecting mass time signage,

Under open forum John K inquired about candles at the Christmas vigil mass but Father John and Deacon George were not in favor as it was too similar to the Easter Vigil, and they thought it might detract

Cathy brought up the possibility of a children's choir. There was some discussion but probably not the best place for that discussion (my thoughts) so it was tabled.

Our Next meeting will be October 23 at 7PM at St. Ann's Parish House. All are invited.