

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

February 09, 2015

7:00 PM

Room 167

Members: Fr. Dan, Fr. Maciej, Sandy Beris, Mary Borland, Tom Burns, Joe DiGiovanni, Dennis Kiraly, Barbara Garavalia, Anne Hillebrand, Marilyn Kroenke, Dina Laughlin, Al Martin, Bud Miller, Luanne Roth, David Trondsen, Neil Wisker

Members Absent: Fr. Dan, Al Martin, Dina Laughlin, David Trondsen

Guests in Attendance: Mark Bernhard

Meeting Began: 7:04 PM

Opening Prayer: Neil Wisker and Sandy Beris

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of January were approved by email with multiple corrections.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda for February was approved.

Commission Reports: From Joint Commissions Meeting

PPC

1. Meeting regularly every 2nd Monday of the month and meeting with Fr. Dan the Wednesday before PPC.
2. Implemented sending out recap of Commission's meetings minutes so they can be reviewed prior to the PPC meeting so we can focus on Future visioning of parish.
3. We are discussing the book "Rebuilt".
4. A Communications director should be hired soon.
5. Planning a Parish wide festival during the weekend of the Feast of St. Raphael...Oktoberfest atmosphere.
6. We always start and end our meetings with a prayer.
7. Members are writing articles on Prayer for the Parish bulletin.

Admin & Planning

1. Started Masonry project and it will continue in the Spring due to weather.
2. We have seen an increase in donations since the stewardship drive.
3. Parish midyear report out within the next two weeks.
4. Looking forward to launching a new Parish app in the near future.
5. We always pray that we are good stewards of the gifts that God gives us.
6. We pray that when there is a need at St. Raphael, it will be met through the generosity of our parishioners.

Adult Faith

1. Faith Breakfasts with Abbot Dismas have been very well received.
2. CREEDS bible study is doing very well and numbers are up.

3. Looking at Evangelization efforts focusing on RCIA and CRHP. Advertised for RCIA and numbers are up. CRHP has now hit the road and we are the "Traveling CRHP Parish"

Finance

1. No Report

Liturgical Life

1. It's all year long...worship and prayer...keep that as a focus.
2. Using book "Rebuilt" as discussion material.
3. Reviewed Bishop Conlon's letter on liturgy...we are mostly in compliance.
4. Priests are working collaborately with Liturgy for all worship experiences.
5. Need to recruit more people for Liturgical ministries.
6. Chapel nearing completion.
7. Started a sound analysis of our church spaces.
8. Wedding Ministry is discussing possibility of asking the mothers of past brides to see if they would be interested in helping with ministry.
9. Discussed possibility of having one or two ministries present at Donut Sunday to advertise what they do and to sign up volunteers...we have already tried this with little success.

School Board

1. Striving to see that all students will achieve expected growth in Reading as measured by IOWA Assessments.
2. Striving to see that all students will achieve growth in Math Total which includes computation and measured by the IOWA Assessment Estimated Growth Summary.
3. Working to create communication structures to families at large.
4. Working with the new RE Director and the Youth Minister to design the new Confirmation timeline and develop better communication between School and Youth Faith Formation.
5. Creating a safe school environment while working with the Safe School Committee...new safety doors and a staged school assault with police.
6. Working to improve the Vitality of the school through external sources...Alumni Association and endowment fund.
7. Should be almost completely full next year.
8. Ongoing prayer throughout day with Morning Prayer led by students.

Service Ministry & Pastoral Care

1. Once again, St. Raphael families have been incredibly generous in their response to our **Christmas Sharing** Program.
 - Gifts were purchased for 165 families who are clients of Loaves and Fishes
 - 136 Gift baskets (including a \$25 Jewel gift card) were given to the residents of Martin Avenue Apartments
 - An "SUV-full to the roof" of toys and books for Teen Parent Connection; additionally nearly \$1,000 in gift cards were given to this organization
 - 30 seniors from Ecumenical Adult Daycare received gifts from their personal wish lists.
2. On top of all that, Parishioners donated \$34,440 to the **Special Appeal**.
3. 44 people went on the bus trip to the Chicago March for Life. Only 5 of these were parishioners, but we were happy to provide a tangible way of showing that respecting life is, not only a teaching of the Church, but one that we value and support.
4. We have begun a new support group for Bereaved persons. Seven persons are attending this group.

5. Our Transitional Housing Ministry and Pastoral Care Ministries are growing with the addition of newly trained mentors and Ministers of Care.
6. We have begun sending a commission representative to the Joliet Diocesan Coalition for Social Justice as a way of learning about initiatives promoted by this Coalition and integrating them into St. Raphael parish life.
7. We will continue to model our ministry after that described in the USCCB document on Social Ministry, *Communities of Salt and Light*
8. We will continue to collaborate with other school/parish ministries in promoting/assisting with their planned events.
9. We are looking forward to the successful completion of our spring service events:
 - Aunt Mary's Storybook project, which will take place the weekend of February 28-March 1
 - Spring Service Day at Feed My Starving Children on March 21 (see flyers on your table!)
 - Bucket Brigade, collecting cleaning supplies for Loaves and Fishes on April 18-19
 - Respect Life Rose Sale on Mother's Day weekend
 - St. Vincent DePaul clothing/household items drive on May 16-17
 - Offering of Letters on the weekend of May 30 – June 1
10. Communally, we begin and end all meetings with prayer and reflection and encourage all of our ministries to do the same.
11. Individually, we pray for each other, for the many ministries which make up Service Ministry and Pastoral Care and most important, for those we serve – for the sick, the hungry, the homeless, the imprisoned, the poor, the unborn, those suffering painful life transitions.

Staff

1. Anne Hillebrand will be retiring June 30. Thank you for your devotion to St. Raphael and all your hard work. You will be dearly missed.

Youth Faith Formation

1. Big change in Confirmation Program up and running...Confirmation November of sophomore year.
2. 6th and 7th graders will be attending retreats.
3. Now have RPM college volunteer staff.
4. As of November 2014, the YFF Commission sends out a monthly newsletter to all YFF families.

Pastor's Report [Luanne Roth]

1. Chapel should be finished soon with a new Tabernacle (Donated gift) and two paintings.
2. We should all extend a warm welcome to our seminarian Mark Bernhard.
3. Working on a new Communications Director.
4. March 14th will be the Parish Appreciation Dinner.

New Business:

1. We need to start asking people to consider discerning for At-Large Members of the PPC along with Linking Members from commissions whose terms are up.
2. We will have a special guest speaker, Michael Franzese, on March 15th at 4 PM. See the website for more details.

Old Business:

1. Diocesan Pastoral Plan/ Deanery meeting...meetings will be four times a year. We are doing what the Diocesan Plan is asking us to do, and meetings should be focused on best practices to help each other out. Diocesan website is available to highlight important items.

2. Yearly celebration/party
 - a. Weekend of Sept. 26/27, Feast of St. Raphael.
 - b. Saturday, Sept. 26, Oktoberfest celebration after 5 PM Mass. Mostly for adults. Will be a charge to attend.
 - c. Sunday, Sept. 27, picnic/carnival after 12:15 Mass until 5 PM. Admission is FREE.
 - d. Forming sub-committees:
 - Mass
 - Food
 - Entertainment
 - Kids/Teens Activities and games
 - Bands
 - Setup and tear down
 - e. Looking to incorporate Ministry Fair throughout carnival
3. St. Raphael social media presence...Communications Commission/person...soon
4. Sound Improvement Committee
 - a. Met with Rep from sound company and he looked over our spaces and equipment.
 - b. Next step is to have a sound analysis of church spaces done.
5. Schedule for bulletin Prayer Article
 - a. Thanks for volunteering to do articles.
 - b. Follow guidelines...there is no one formula.
 - c. Commissions...possibly think of who you serve and what their needs might be.
6. Discuss book "Rebuilt"...Part Three (pages 87 through 128)
 - a. A lively discussion ensued.
 - b. Type of music is a very personal and passionate thing.
 - c. Music should enhance worship experience and Bible readings.
 - d. Music should be "User friendly"...Lay people should be able to sing songs.
 - e. Further discussion needed.

Closing Prayer: Joe DiGiovanni

Meeting Ended: 9:03 PM

Next PPC Meeting: March 9th, at 7 PM in room 167

Opening Prayer: Sandy Beris