

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

Regular Meeting

February 8, 2016

Room 167

Members: Fr. Dan, Fr. Maciej, Sandy Beris, Ann Dumais, Mike Huck, Kurt Lange, Dennis Kiraly, Joe DiGiovanni, Barbara Garavalia, Al Martin, Luanne Roth, Liz Russell, Neil Wisker

Members Absent: Joe DiGiovanni, Liz Russell

Guests: none

Meeting Began: 7:05 PM

Opening Prayer: Al Martin

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

Approval of Agenda: Agenda for February was approved.

Commission Reports:

Adult Faith

- Continued focus on the young adults – late teens-twenties and ways to help them engage in the parish. A new Commission member (Kevin Connelly) is a young adult and is working with the rest of the team to generate ideas. Some of those ideas include a movie night, service project, or retreat for college age parishioners.
- Preparations for the upcoming Woman's CRHP Renewal are in full swing. The weekend is March 5 & 6.
- The men's CRHP team is formed and beginning to meet, their weekend is April 23 and 24

Finance

- Although revenue collections from Christmas were higher than expected.
- January books are completed. The parish reported expenses were lower than anticipated, and though Sunday offerings are under projections, they (along with the Christmas collection) are sufficient to maintain a balanced budget.
- The budgeting/calendar process is underway and will be presented to the PPC at the May 9th meeting.
- A mid-year report on parish finances will be shared at masses the weekend of Feb. 20/21.

Liturgical Life

- Follow up to the question of the role of the Liturgical Life Commission - Jeanne handed out copies from the Vatican II Documents on Liturgical Life in Diocese and Parish page 152-153. Please read for the March meeting.
- **Confession Opportunities**
 1. SsPP is the pilgrim church in our Diocese in this Year of Mercy. There will be many opportunities to receive confession this year. SsPP will have confession March 11-12 and Our Lady of Gostyn in Downers Grove March 5.
 2. Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent will continue.

3. Parish Reconciliation Service will take place during Lent.
- The Commission was challenged to think of a special way to celebrate Divine Sunday this year. Some ideas surfaced:
 1. Add it onto the Fridays of Lent, Stations and the Divine Chaplet
 2. Considered a pilgrimage to SsPP but we know that will be a busy day already there.
 3. The Commission will continue to think about it.
 - Feast of Body and Blood-May 29 Memorial Day - A special procession and mass is being planned in downtown Naperville. Right now St. Raphael and SsPP will be participating. Maybe more of the Catholic churches will join. Not sure of the location of the outdoor mass. More details to follow.
 - Last year St. Raphael parish grew by 200 families. - This led to a discussion about how new families are welcomed. Father explained that a New Welcome Committee was being formed. Bill received feedback from a Greeter who had helped a new parishioner fill out the paper work at a Sunday Mass. The family came back a couple weeks later and shared that they had received nothing from the parish and wondered if they would. Father explained Lois' role in the welcome letter and that she has been sick and out of the office.
 - Review of Recent Liturgies. Jeanne heard lots of good news and compliments about the music and the great work Julie and Robert do with the choirs.
 1. Robert reported that 4 new EM's were trained last week. Thanks to Fr. Maciej and the Harrington's for recruiting the teens to get involved. There was a discussion about how can the commission help to recruit more parishioners to be involved in Liturgical Ministries.
 2. Robert shared that these steps were in progress:
 - Robert will speak at the masses.
 - There will be cards in the pews if parishioners are interested.
 - Continue to ask School and RE families.
 - We brainstormed a new idea of having a parishioner in each ministry that would follow up with the assigned ministers each week. This person would do a phone check in to remind, discuss if the person did not come, or just to see how the ministry is going. Bill volunteered to pilot this idea for the ministers at the 12:15 mass.
 - Parish Mission Update
 1. Bill and Dan went to neighboring churches of other Faiths and welcomed them to our mission. They left posters for them to share with their staff and to hang in their churches. Bill said he received a warm welcome.
 2. We discussed how we can encourage our parishioners to invite their friends and neighbors to attend the mission.
 3. Lisa is putting together helpers for food for the mission on Monday and Tuesday. Another group is organizing the pizza for the youth on Sunday.
 4. JMT will speak at the 5:00 and 10:45 masses to invite people to attend the mission.
 5. Ruth will talk at evening Creeds and ask Luann to talk at morning Creeds.
 6. Robert has been having parishioners sign up to help at the mission and to bring refreshments.

School Board

- Subcommittees are being created as work continues on the planning, finances, marketing, and 2016-2017 budget
- The fall fundraiser was a success and work has begun on the spring golf outing.

Service Ministry & Pastoral Care

- **Workshop – Hope in Action: Responding to the Message of Pope Francis** – January 16, 2016 (MLK Weekend). Fifty-four participants attended this workshop focused on responding to the encyclical *Laudato Si – Care for our Common Home*. John Grossman provided the opening reflection, incorporating his homeless character, "Ray." This was followed by a choice of breakout sessions: 1)

rotating discussion tables on *Laudato Si*, 2) education on taking action locally provided by SCARCE, and 3) a Lectio Divino-style prayer response. Robert Frasier led an opening prayer with a song based on St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Sun*, which was a key theme for *Laudato Si*. Forty-three attendees wrote letters to Congress asking for support of the Green Action Fund, as recommended by the USCCB and our diocese. Seven people signed up to participate in future work, which may include a potential social concerns group.

- **Samaritan Ministry** – the group discerned which charities to support with the donations from the parish tithe. Half of the projected tithe will be dispersed now, with the remainder dispersed later.
- **Community-wide Catholic Hospital Ministers Meeting** - 1/25/16 - St. Raphael's developed a meeting for all ministers of care who serve Edward Hospital. Forty-eight participants from St. Raphael, St. Margaret Mary, St. Elizabeth Seton, Sts. Peter and Paul, and St. Thomas, as well as the priest chaplain, reviewed procedures and shared information and stories.
- **2016 Offering of Letters: Survive and Thrive (spring)** – This year's offering of letters will have a global focus of helping mothers and children "survive and thrive." It will capitalize on the great strides made in maternal and child survival rates since the 1980's, focusing not on food assistance alone, but on improving the nutrition and health of mothers and their children. Pregnant mothers, their unborn children, mothers who recently gave birth, and young children are the most vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition. Also, good nutrition is key for children to develop to their full potential. This will be another way to merge our pro-life concerns with advocacy on behalf of the hungry.
- **St. Raphael at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) – 3/12/16** – Our Spring Service Day will occur at FMSC. Individuals and groups should register to serve by 2/29/16. Special invitations have gone out to the school and youth formation groups.
- **Special Appeal** - supporting Watts of Love, which will provide solar-powered lights for a colony of lepers in Nepal. \$26,455 collected to date, with 2/3 earmarked for Watts of Love and 1/3 for the U.S. Bishop's Campaign for Human Development.
- **Bucket Brigade** – Over 250 buckets were distributed on January 30-31, 2016. Parishioners will fill them with cleaning supplies needed for clients of Loaves and Fishes and return them on February 6-7, 2016. Donors seldom provide these types of items, so our donations are much appreciated.

Staff

- The staff has been asked to plan fewer activities during Lent so that the time may be more T

Youth Faith Formation

- **Year of Mercy** – integrated activities for grade 1- RPM. At the parish event for 1st-5th graders on 2/7 & 2/9, the children will decorate Easter bags for residents at St. Patrick's and Martin Ave Apartments. Those bags will be filled with items and be delivered by the 6th-10th graders before the holiday.
- **Volunteers needed** – the YFF office is looking for help Monday – Friday starting at 10am. Contact Michelle Sadler or Renee Cwik if able
- 1/20-1/24 – **March for Life**. Attended by 9 teens in Washington DC
- The Freshman Confirmation retreat 2/12-2/14
- Teens are encouraged to attend and help at the first night of the Mission with JMT. Pizza and fellowship will be available after the talk.
- Catechist training took place the first week of February.
- First Communion retreats were held on 1/29 & 1/30.

World Youth Day fundraiser

Easter hams will be for sale with the help of the owners at Pancake Café. Parishioners will be able to purchase their ham after mass and pick it up at the restaurant. Looking into the possibility of donating hams to Hesus House or similar organization. The goal of the fundraiser is to help subsidize the cost of the teens' trip to Poland – bringing the individual cost down from \$3300 to \$2300.

Pastor's Report

- The parish assessment from Healy-Bender is nearly complete. A booklet will be produced and made available of their final notes. Only one major project seems to need to be addressed in the next 5 years – the roof of the Church will need to be replaced. In addition to evaluating every nook and cranny in and out of the church, the company will also perform a sound evaluation for approximately \$6500 and make and carry out the necessary steps to address the acoustical issues in the church and gym. We received a \$12,000 rebate from the diocese that can be used to pay for these measures.
- During Catholic Schools Week, a Benedictine monk, nun, Fr. Dan, Fr. Maciej, and Deacon Kurt spoke to the school children about vocations. Additionally, Bishop Conlon was able to celebrate mass at St. Raphael on the Friday of CSW.

New Business:

- Easter Vigil reception to be planned to help celebrate with the newly initiated members of the Church. The reception will be held in rm 162. Will the social committee be able to organize this event? (Sandy Beris and Luanne Roth will be meeting to create a more formalized job description for this committee.)
- PPC members are asked to start recruiting new PPC members. Two at-large positions are available, as well as the linking member position for YFF. Names and contact information can be sent to Fr. Dan, Luanne Roth, Neil Wisker, or Sandy Beris.
- Discussion began about the idea of a code of conduct for St. Raphael volunteers. Recognizing that volunteering is a privilege and carries a responsibility to act as a representative of the faith and the parish, the PPC began to discuss whether an official code was necessary, helpful, relevant, or appreciated. The conversation will continue at future meetings.
- Looking ahead to the 2016 Parish Picnic – PPC members were asked to think about plans for this year's picnic by thinking about what they liked, didn't like, multi-day v. one day event, etc. Discussion will occur at the next meeting.

Old Business:

- By-Laws revision for Admin and Finance were approved as written by Neil Wisker. Changes will be made to the document.
- Year of Mercy sign up went around. PPC members are encouraged to invite parishioners who regularly participate in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.
- The group discussed chapter 3 in The Holy Year of Mercy.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Dan

Meeting Ended: 9:05PM

Next PPC Meeting: March 14th, at 7 PM in room 167

Opening Prayer: Deacon Kurt