

ST RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*ROOM 167, 7pm
September 11, 2018*

Present: M. Johnston, K. Helm, B. Barron, P. Makris, G. Fosco, A. Blank, L. Mersinger, Fr John, Fr Dan, J. Brackett, L. Russell, S. Allen

Not Present: Liturgical Life Rep, Finance Rep, RE Rep.

Opening Prayer: offered by Fr Dan using the gospel reading for this upcoming Sunday Mass followed by reflection and discussion.

Old Business: May Meeting Minutes were approved at the June meeting/social gathering. No new business was discussed.

New Business:

Introduction of PPC Members: Each member introduced themselves and their role on the Council as well as length of time served. There were six new members attending. Liturgical Life will select their representative at their first meeting which occurs after today's date. Their rep will attend October's meeting. the Finance Rep was unable to attend. Phil McEntee, RE Rep also was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Prayer Assignments: In an effort to reduce confusion and streamline meetings, the Council will start using the gospel reading from the upcoming Sunday as the opening prayer. Council members will volunteer for the month of their choice in which they will be responsible for reading the gospel and ask two questions or share comments or a reflection regarding the reading in which the remainder of the group can offer their thoughts or ask questions.

A sheet was passed around the group in which each member was asked to print their name, cell phone number, email address, role on the Council and month of choice to lead the opening prayer to be typed up and shared with the Council.

Commission Reporting: A new procedure in which commission representatives will share their individual meeting highlights was discussed in a private board meeting prior to the PPC meeting and shared with the group. Each rep will send a copy of their monthly meeting report to the secretary, Susie Allen, no later than one week prior to the monthly PPC meeting. She will then forward these reports to each member of the Council to read and review. Any questions that would require additional in-depth input, would be considered an agenda item and either Susie or Liz should be notified that that member would like to add it to the upcoming PPC meeting agenda. This should eliminate the amount of time it takes for each linking member to give an oral report as well as a written report, while items needing more clarification can be discussed

9-Oct-18 *revised*

appropriately. Linking members who have not submitted their monthly meeting report will be contacted and requested to do so.

Due to the number of ministries that fall under Social Outreach and Pastoral Care, Fr Dan will speak with Barry O'Donnell about possibly splitting it into two separate commissions, each with its own representative on the PPC. This should help cut down on the amount of reporting to be done by each of the linking partners.

Commission Reports:

School: Laura Mersinger, School Board President, linking partner from the school, gave a report on several ongoing initiatives that have begun with the onset of the new school year. Highlighted were:

- Many new middle school teachers have begun teaching this school year exhibiting a positive impact.
- World's Finest Chocolate is being sold after masses until Sept 21st or while supply lasts,
- St Raphael Winter Wonderland Gala is to be held on January 26, 2019 at the Signature Room for which 225 raffle tickets have been sold
 - Several baskets have been donated for the raffle fund-raiser
- Two service opportunities for school children and their families have been set up at Feed My Starving Children.
- A Costume Exchange by the parish and school families to help provide Halloween costumes for lower income children.
- School Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month and there are currently two new, open, three-year positions: Marketing and Alumni Relations
- A Sky Zone Fundraiser is being considered. A percentage of the money raised would go to the school
- A School Open House is being scheduled

Service Ministry/Pastoral Care: Bob Barron, new linking partner, reported that the commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month and currently has nine members attending.

- The Baby Shower, which requested donations of baby items for newborn and infants of the Waterleaf Nativity House, was very successful, filling the Founders Room with a variety of clothes, diapers, carriers, etc.
- 40 Days for Life, a pro-life prayer initiative taking place near abortion clinics in Aurora and Downers Grove, is planned for September 26-29th. Saturday, September 29th will be

held at the Planned Parenthood clinic on 75th St in Downers Grove. Waterleaf has acquired the property next door.

- Gift Cards for Good has extended the sale of their gift cards throughout the year. Money raised from the sales will help fund future mission works.
- Loaves and Fishes has begun vetting families (children only) for the Christmas Sharing program. Gift Cards for Good is also a good resource to be used in fulfilling the requests by these families.

Finance: Linking member was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Information updates were given by Marian Johnston.

- Finance committee last met at the end of July. Donations vs Budget is only \$500 behind in comparison to last year.
- The Financial Summary for fiscal year ending the end of June will be shared with the parish on October 13th and 14th. An Altar announcement will be given as well as a printed summary made available in a new, cleaner format that makes it easier to understand the budgeted and collected monies versus expenditures.
- A booklet on Giving will be given to families.

Young Adults: Andy Blank, from the Circles ministry, gave an overview of what Circles encompasses.

- Young adults between the ages of 18-30 meet weekly on Thursday evenings (previously held on Monday evenings) where the upcoming weekend readings are read aloud.
- An average of seven to eight young adults meet regularly. Some are attending local colleges, some are married couples.
- The messages and themes are discussed among the group, as well as how these apply to or fit into their lives. Fr John has occasionally attended and led or added to the discussion.
- Socialization is also an important part of the evenings.

Adult Faith: Susie Allen, the linking partner, reported.

- Pam Wilson has joined, bring the commission up to six members.
- Community of Catholic Mothers, formerly known as MGM, has resumed and has a very committed group of women attending their meetings.

- The first Faith Breakfast for this year was held this past Saturday and hosted a presentation given by Abbott Dismas who spoke about A Better World Through Theology and some of the documents from Vatican II. Around 40 people attended.
 - The following dates and speakers for the Faith Breakfasts have been scheduled for the year:
 - November 10th with Deacon John Gustin: CRHP and an Invitation to Become Involved
 - January 12th with Fr Joel of the Marmian Academy speaking of How to Invite Young Adults to Live their Faith
 - March 23rd, a Women's Vocation Day which will be a diocese-wide event hosting around five nuns of various orders to talk about and answer questions regarding vocations for women.
- RCIA started on Sunday morning, September 9th. There are only 1-2 adults signed up this year, however, there are 5-6 children in the Youth RCIA program—many who have been attending mass.
- CREEDS Bible Study will be starting on Wednesday September 19th and led, once again, by Fr Bob Carroll of Mt Caramel. This year's theme is Heavy Hitters of the Bible.
- Women's CRHP has started their Formation. Men's CRHP is still on hold while Matthew Kelly's reformatted version, called Welcome, is evaluated by members of the CRHP Continuation Committee on how it's different from the older, original version of CRHP and what its draw would be.

Invitation Theme Review: Liz Russell, Council Chair, reviewed last year's SWOT initiative of Invitation for the new Council members.

- A resurvey of the parish last year indicated that while the parish felt welcoming, this needs to be better sustained by inviting people into the parish's life.
- The theme of Invitation will run over the next two years to make it most effective as opposed to previous single year themes
- Fr Dan and Fr John will begin hosting a Meet and Greet with the parish sending out invitations to these gatherings. They will also begin writing a column for the bulletin.
- PPC members will also write short articles centering on the Invitation theme, starting with the 2nd and 3rd year members. Council members are to give thought to ideas for article topics to be discussed at the next meeting in October.
 - A sign-up sheet will be made available

Fr Dan's Report:

The Parish Dream Team (PPC) is a committee that assists the pastor look ahead at what the direction of the parish should look like. It does not make the decisions.

- Donut Sunday has three Sundays available and Fr Dan would like the PPC to volunteer to serve for one of them. It would give parishioners an opportunity to know who we are. Shirts will be made available for members to wear when attending parish events, so they can be easily identified.
- The Parish Picnic will be held next Sunday. The back half of the parking lot will be closed to parking after the 9:00am mass to allow set-up to begin. A DJ, games, hot dogs and a variety of foods will be available. A Dunk Tank will also be set up. Fr John, Deacon Len and Chris Traub, Youth Minister, will be “manning” the tank. PPC members are encouraged to attend.
- St Raphael will be hosting the diocese sponsored Echo Program. It is a two-year internship open to college grads. We applied for 2018-2020 and originally were to be a part of the program, and there were not enough interns. Fr Dan was contacted by Fr. Burke Masters, Evangelization Director, formerly Vocations Director, to participate in the 2019-2021 Echo Program.
- Parish Census is still on-going. It was supposed to conclude Sept 15th, but after recent bulletin announcements, many parishioners questioned when they were contacted, so the deadline has been extended to Oct 15th. Its purpose is to connect with all parishioners that are still actually connected to the parish (one family still receives envelopes after having left the parish 20 years ago).
- Grandparents Day was hosted at the school last week and was well attended by 94 grandparents.

Closing Prayer was led by Fr John.

Minutes were reviewed and approved by the Council with all corrections being made on 10.09.2018.