

2018-2019 ST RAPHAEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

November 13, 2018

Present: Andy Blank, Bob Barron, Fr Dan Bachner, Gerard Fosco, Joy Brackett, Kate Helm, Liz Russell, Marian Johnston, Phil McEntee, Sue Sullivan, Susie Allen

Absent: Chuck Barth, Fr John Honiotes, Laura Mersinger, Pete Makris

Opening Prayer and Gospel Reading were given by Liz Russell

Meeting Minutes: from 10/9/18 were approved.

Approved Minutes: have been sent to Julie Duffin to be posted in the appropriate area on the church's website. We have received positive feedback regarding this renewed implementation.

Ministry Updates: New format on sharing Ministry Updates was implemented. Ministries that were unable to send updates gave brief oral reviews:

+ Religious Education:

- * to increase parental involvement, a Parent Social Evening has been held. More to follow.

+ Liturgy Commission:

- * Eucharistic Ministers currently stand in front of the first pew sections to the right and left of the altar after cleansing their hands which blocks the altar from the view of anyone sitting in those sections. Ministers will start standing in a line along the front side perpendicular to the pews to make the altar visible to all.
- * Utilization of a postcard mailing for special liturgical events was discussed. The idea is to mail it to all homes in the community as an invitation to attend events such as Taizé, concerts, etc. The Trunk or Treat mailing from Knox Church was used as an example. Postcards are currently mailed to parishioners announcing Advent and Lent liturgical calendars.

+ School:

- * Parent-Teacher Conferences are being held this week
- * A number of Gala Items will go on sale to correspond with Black Friday and Cyber Monday to raise money and awareness of the upcoming event.
- * Bingo was held and well attended.
- * John Groseman was acknowledged for his excellent job in leading Confirmation Instruction for teens and their parents.

Pastor's Report:

- + A post-Confirmation overnight youth retreat is being planned entitled "Disciples for Jesus".**

- ✦ The concert scheduled for Sunday December 9th has been cancelled. Instead, a Contemporary Christian Rock Concert will be held on Monday, December 10th featuring three separate rock groups.
 - * Sponsorship money for this event has already been donated, so there will be no charge to those looking to attend.
 - * Tickets will still be required.
 - * Free-will Offering will be encouraged.
 - All money collected will go to the parish Special Appeal.
- ✦ New LED lighting fixture installation is going well.
 - * Should be completed over the next few weeks.
- ✦ The pavers outside the Narthex are rescheduled to be replaced in the spring due to the early onset of winter weather
- ✦ Appeals for money donations need to be cut back. There has been too much reaching into the pockets of the faithful.
 - * Be cognizant of other fundraising ideas
- ✦ New Invitation posters/signage has started going up as an organic way to start up our Invitation theme.
- ✦ First Confessions are scheduled to be held soon
- ✦ Advent preparations are under way.
- ✦ Parish Ministry/Parishioner Address Book should be completed in the next couple weeks
 - * 2640 census responses were returned which is a 70% response rate.

New Business:

- ✦ **Evolution of Invitation Theme:** Liz reviewed how the decision was made beginning with Joint Commission meeting last fall
 - * Invitation is not just getting someone into church, but for them to have a relationship with Jesus
 - Attending Mass as not something I have to do but something I want to do
 - Too-traditional versus non-traditional
 - But whatever is good for the greater good of the souls
- ✦ How an invitation can change you and your life

Next Meeting Date: December 11th

- ✦ Traditionally, December meeting is more casual to celebrate Christmas
 - * We will meet at Liz's home and enjoy appetizers and refreshments

Closing prayer was said by Fr Dan.