

2019-2020 ST RAPHAEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Jan 14, 2020

Present: Fr Jeremiah, Fr John Honiotes, Susie Allen, Bob Barron, Andy Blank, Chuck Barth, Paul Benton, Joy Brackett, Lacy Cortez, Marian Johnston, Dan Koys, Phil McEntee, Sue Sullivan

Absent: Kate Helm, Pete Makris, Laura Mersinger

Opening Prayer: read by Dan Koys

Meeting Minutes: December meeting minutes approved. Will be sent to Julie Duffin to be posted on the church's website.

- Introductions were made by all to Fr Jeremiah.

Old Business:

- Fr Dan is leaving for Rome on Friday. He is currently visiting with his family prior to departure.

Pastor's Report:

- Fr Jeremiah has been very happy with his welcome by the parish. Still getting his feet wet in terms of what the current needs are.

Ministry Updates: Ministry Updates from AFFC, RE, Service Ministry, LLC and the school will all be distributed to the PPC members via email for review. Questions for any of the represented commissions are welcome at the next Council meeting as follow up to their emailed updates.

• **Service Ministry:**

- Christmas Sharing program helped 150 families this year
- The Special Appeal was moved from Advent to Lenten Season due to the volume of requests for financial giving.
- March for Life had a great turnout of between 2-3000 at the Chicago Civic Center, even though it was a very cold, overcast day.
- The Samaritan Committee distributed its funds to assist numerous groups with financial aid to help care for the needs of many individuals
- The annual Bucket Brigade that collects cleaning supplies not covered by food stamps to help stock the shelves at Loaves and Fishes, will begin on Feb 1st and 2nd when buckets will be distributed.
 - Filled buckets will be collected the following weekend of Feb 8th and 9th.
- Compassionate Sisters of the Poor, last year's Special Appeal recipient, will host a dinner dance this weekend

• **RE:**

- Mark is working to involve parents in the RE Program
- NCYC was held in Indianapolis in November 2019
 - Students wore special silicone bracelets to help with evangelization

- Bracelets create interest by others who will then ask what it's about, opening an occasion for one-on-one conversation
 - Reflections Retreat Weekend will be held on February 22nd-23rd with approximately 70 students signed up to attend.
 - The theme is the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Youth Retreat for 6th and 7th graders is scheduled to be held in the Parish Center on Jan 31st.
 - Sydney is involved in this year's presentation.
- **Finance:**
 - Good news—the consolidated shortfall has decreased
 - Due mostly to the increase in Sunday collections
 - Christmas collection was within \$1000 of this year's goal
 - Expenses for the month of December were right on budget
 - Final numbers meeting will be held on the 23rd.
 - There is a projected shortfall in the school tuition
 - Enrollment is down in all Catholic Schools
 - The Diocese does an audit of all parishes every three years
 - St Raphael's audit will be this spring
 - No date given
- **Liturgical Life:**
 - No Show and late notice of cancellations have become a big problem
 - The Commission is working at resolving or reducing the occurrences.
 - Liz Russell will be starting a Bereavement Group after Easter.

New Business:

- Discussion was had regarding Missionary Discipleship
 - Many relevant points were made:
 - Many need a personal encounter with Christ before responding
 - Priests should lead the parish by utilizing the content of their homilies
 - "Mass" means Mission
 - Some people think this life is it

Closing prayer was said by Fr Jeremiah

** Next Meeting will be on February 11th with Fr Jeremiah and Fr John.