

2019-2020 ST RAPHAEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Feb 11, 2020

Present: Fr Jeremiah, Susie Allen, Bob Barron, Andy Blank, Joy Brackett, Lacy Cortez, Marian Johnston, Dan Koys, Pete Makris, Phil McEntee, Laura Mersinger, Sue Sullivan

Absent: Fr Dan, Fr John, Paul Benton, Kate Helm

Opening Prayer: read by Laura Mersinger

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

Old Business:

- We will continue to place articles about invitation in the bulletin. Peter explained the background on these to Fr Jeremiah.
 - Sue Sullivan has been inspired and written an article that will go into a future bulletin.
- Website update is still ongoing and should be ready by summer.

Pastor's Report:

- Fr Jeremiah spoke at the Women's CRHP Renewal. The weekend went very well and was well received.
- Attended the Adult Faith meeting where the Parish Mission was well detailed.
 - Sr Briege has a following both nationally as well as internationally.
- Catholic Schools week went well with a procession through the school.
- Team Leaders for the Gala Dinner met
 - 201 electronic tickets have been sold to date.
- School Open House was well attended by 20 potential students, which is the goal
 - We should know by June if the goal has been reached.

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.

• **School:**

- Laurie attended a focus group for schools/school boards
 - Ideas shared in how bylaws are carried out at other schools
 - Opportunities discussed in promoting the school's integration with the parish
- The Gala is set to go on Feb 22nd
 - Largest fundraiser for the school
 - Fr Jeremiah will be doing drawing for the raffle
- The teachers' profiles are going to be added onto the internet

- Mrs. Lacy was the recipient of the Bishop's Excellence in Teaching Award, which is a great honor for her as well as the school.
- The strategic plan will be presented on February 25th
- There is an initiative for parishes without schools to help support parishes with schools.
 - Holy Spirit, Margaret Mary, St Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy are all a part of this initiative.

- **Service Ministry:**

- This year's Special Appeal had two recipient organizations discerned, Radio Santa Maria in the Dominican Republic and the Quito Barrio Outreach in Ecuador
- The annual Bucket Brigade to help stock the shelves at Loaves and Fishes, brought in a lot of cleaning supplies.
- Feed My Starving Children service Day is scheduled for March 7th. Please contact Barry to advise of any volunteers in your group.
- Compassionate Franciscan Sisters of the Poor held a fund-raising dinner at Montini HS last month which was attended by multiple St. Raphael Parishioners.
- Samaritan Funding discerned for the fourth-coming year. Local charities are supported with 2% of our parish's collections.
- The Service Ministry Social Justice Commission will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday March 13th.

- **RE:**

- RE is beginning to prepare for the First Communion retreat, scheduled for April 18.
 - First Communion is scheduled for May 2.
 - 145 kids making First Communion this year.
- Sydney led our 6th and 7th grade retreat
 - about 65 kids attended
 - really well done with some great feedback
- Had an 8th and 9th grade catechist meeting which was very fruitful.
 - Looking to make some changes in the program for next year.
- The Reflections Retreat will be February 21-23 for 9th graders that will be making their confirmation next fall.
 - At Dixon Valley Camp & Retreat Center (a little less than hour southwest Millbrook, IL
 - There will be about 140 people on the retreat (76 participants/ 64 leaders).
- Formation is coming along well.
 - leadership team has been instructed to be praying constantly for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - There are 7 weeks of formation, so focus should be on a gift each week
- Registrations are open for:
 - Winter Jam (Christian music concert) on Friday March 13th.
 - The Steubenville Conference June 19th-21st at the University of Steubenville, Ohio
 - summer mission trip July 19th-25th to Mexico, Missouri
- Working on a pilgrimage to St. John, Indiana to the "Shrine of Christ's Passion."

- **Pastoral Care:**

- Liz Russell reported on our Bereavement Group's last session. They distributed votive candles to the members with a quote about grief. They were invited to light the candles when the family gathered for special events to remember their loved one.
- The Bereavement group is open to any person who has lost a loved one from those who recently suffered the loss to those who have had more time lapse. April 16 begins the new

session. They also are open to meet with participants more informally after the 6-week sessions. There was a discussion about forming a widow women's social group as well.

- Paul Betten reported Stephen Ministry is full with 5 care receivers. There is cooperation between St. Raphael and Holy Spirit Stephen ministries
- Hospital Ministers of Care Patty Scheaffer and Paul Betten report there is good communication between all those involved through text messaging for support. An idea surfaced about crochet crosses for patients visited. there are currently prayer cards and other religious items available.
- Fr. Jeremiah celebrated Mass at Naperville Manor on January 29. That is in addition to Fr. John's monthly Mass there.
- Homebound Ministers of Care are presently visiting 14 people.

- **Finance:**

- The Christmas budget of \$100,000 was met with the collections
- Regular Sunday collection is down \$40,000, but is improving with the additional pledges
- Budgets for the ministries are due to be completed in April
 - 2-2 1/2% increase in teacher's pay will occur in April.
- Parish is working with a lighting consultant to evaluate the lighting to potentially save \$110,000/year in electrical expense
 - This would involve some new fixtures with LED lights and motion-controlled switches.
 - Fixtures are guaranteed for 10 years

- **Liturgical Life:**

- The Eucharistic Ministers database has been updated
 - The ministers will attend ongoing training as needed
 - Focus will be on Retraining, Sharing best practices, Faith formation.
 - Mass Coordinators will meet Saturday, May 16
 - Eucharistic Ministers will meet Saturday, May 30 or Tuesday, June 2

New Business:

- A Signup Genius page for assistance with the Parish Mission will be available in the next week
- Waterleaf held a dinner at the Abbington which was well attended by 800 guests
- The Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Pates, attended the Business Managers meeting and was very well received.

Closing prayer was said by Fr Jeremiah

** Next Meeting will be on March 10th with Fr Jeremiah and Fr John.