**St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council**

**January 12, 2021**

**(Held via ZOOM)**

**Present:** Father Joseph Tito**,** Sheila Hebein (Chair), Cynthia Judge, Traci Laffey, Suzanne Lefevre, Jose Juan Moreno, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith

**Absent:** Michael O’Donovan, Juan Jose Velasco

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

**Opening Prayer** – Our Father led by Jose Juan Moreno

**Approval of November 10, 2020 Minutes**

* Suzanne made a motion to accept the minutes, Yvonne seconded the motion, and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

**Agenda**

*Parish Outreach:*

The PPC, as a group, agreed to an outreach effort to parishioners which would involve a phone call to parishioners asking them how they were doing during the pandemic, answer questions and solicit any prayer requests. It was suggested that each PPC member take on calling individuals that they know through their networks as well as call some selected groups.

PPC members offered to reach out to the following:

* Families with newly baptized children (information can be obtained from Mary Burke Peterson
* Religious education families, especially those that are not participating in the religious ed programs this year (Cynthia Judge)
* District 65 current and former employees (Betsy Quinn)
* SPRED (Traci Laffey)
* ReLent Group (Suzanne Lefevre)
* United Power (Yvonne Smith)
* Those completing new parishioner interest cards (Yvonne Smith)
* 1:00 Spanish mass community (Jose Juan Moreno)

Fr. Tito welcomed the idea but did share that due to the recent changes in the office staff that it may be difficult to get contact information for any of these subgroups in a timely manner. Given that consideration, Sheila and Suzanne volunteered to meet outside of the meeting to develop a communication plan and then share it back with the PPC members prior to the next meeting.

*Staff Changes:*

Fr. Tito announced that Alex Lule, Office Manager, had resigned her position and her last day was January 8.

Coming on to the staff is Ana Alda Falcon as Office Manager and Receptionist. She is multi-lingual, speaking five languages. Originally from Spain she is member of Sts. Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish in Wilmette. Her hours will be Monday through Friday, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm. She will be working in the parish office and will provide much needed consistency in onsite receptionist hours. Judy Borchers, a long-time parish office volunteer, will be coming in one day per week to update sacramental records for those receiving the sacraments during the pandemic.

*Renew My Church (RMC) Update:*

Fr. Tito reported that the Evanston cluster (St. Nick’s, St. Mary’s, St. Athanasius, St. Joan of Arc and Sheil Center (Northwestern) will begin it work this year. He is in the process of inviting five parishioners to be part of the Discernment Team with him. Similar teams from each of the other parishes are also being determined by the pastors of their respective parishes at this time.

Fr. Tito recommended that we view a very good video that had been prepared by some Franciscan priests in the Archdiocese about the spirituality aspects of RMC.

RMC will be an opportunity for the parishes to discern what makes them vibrant and attractive to current and new members. RMC is focused on evangelization of the Catholic faith and not just the structural issues of parish mergers or closings that are often the focus and attention of parishioners.

*Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC):*

Cynthia attended the Archdiocesan Parish Council meeting on January 9. Renew My Church was discussed. All 4 working groups of the APC suggested better, more concise and clear information to be given to those in the pews. The topic for the March meeting will be "How To Get Parishioners Back to Church." Cynthia asked if anyone has ideas to please text or email her as soon as possible.

*Archdiocesan Women’s Council:*

Sheila reported that the next topic for discussion at the February meeting of the Archdiocesan Women’s Council is divorce. She has been asked to suggest names of women who would like to be part of the discussion.

*Vision Keeper Award Ceremony:*

The Interfaith Action Vision Keeper Award ceremony will be virtual this year. The date is expected to be in mid-February. Sheila asked for nominations for this year’s awardee from St. Nicholas. She will circulate a list of previous awardees since 2000 to help with nominating process.

*Winter Parish Party:*

Winter Parish Party will be virtual this year and will be held on Saturday, February 20 at 7 pm. Planning is progressing and all are encouraged to participate.

**New Business**

None.

**Next Meeting**

February 23, 2021

**Closing Prayer** led by Father Tito was the Serenity Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Lefevre