

**St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council**  
**November 30, 2021**

**Present:** Father Tom Baldonieri, Graciela Carmona, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Traci Laffey, Suzanne Lefevre, Jose Juan Moreno, Marco Noria, Rob Sullivan.

**Absent:** Yvonne Smith

**Opening Prayer:** 7:04 pm – Prayer to St. Andrew on his Feast Day and today’s readings from the Bible.

**Approval of October 26 , 2021 Minutes:** Traci proposed a motion to approve the minutes and Suzanne seconded. They were unanimously approved.

**Parish Update – Fr. Tom**

**Renew My Church:** Father Tom expressed his thanks to the RMC team for all of their efforts. A Community Discernment Feedback Summary (a 32 page document) was emailed to the Executive Team of RMC. On December 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting to present this document to the RMC Executive Team. It is a summary of feedback from the five Evanston faith communities as well as staffs, with a narrative to describe each scenario and make a recommendation. The decision will come on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Some of the information shared with the RMC Team was:

- There is a strong desire to have all worship sites remain open.
- Continue the diversity in each parish. At St. Nicholas, there is a richness in race, sexual orientation, family structure, etc..
- The unique nature of Sheil Catholic Center makes it a good candidate to stand alone.
- The scenario involving more than one school is challenging.
- The Evanston parishes are not limited to geographical boundaries; many parishioners choose their church because of “fit”, not location

- Some partnerships are already existing: Pope John XXIII is a school of St. Nicholas and St. Mary parishes; St. Athanasius and St. Joan now share religious education; UCYM includes all Evanston parishes.
- All parishes are financially stable, with some savings and no debt. All have significant capital improvements that will need to take place within the next decade.

Once the decision is made known, parishes will receive support for the integration. The Archdiocese will assign a person to work with a Transition Team from each parish. The new pastors will be announced later.

**Religious Education** will resume on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Mass Schedule** was discussed and clarified.

There will be no Simbang Gabi celebration at St. Nick's this year. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special Anniversary event for St. James Armenian Church held at St. Nicholas.

**UCYM Update:** Mirka Gallo will be leaving UCYM tomorrow., she had a very positive influence and will be missed. Andrea Martinez will now work with UCYM. Youth will be working at St. Nick's Fest and will be involved in the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There are about 15-20 active youth members.

**October Counts:** The average in October, 2021 was 763.

## **PPC Reports**

**St. Nicholas Festival:** Suzanne gave an update. Malachy and Sarah Cross are chairing the Festival. They are very organized, everything is written down, all on spreadsheets, it will be a great roadmap for the future. The last meeting of the committee was on Monday night, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Debbie Anton needs help, especially on Saturday morning, December 4<sup>th</sup>, please sign up online. Also need runners are needed for online orders, to carry those orders to cars. One-third of the crafters are new, please

support them. Also, there is an effort to be ecologically sensitive, no bottled water will be sold.

**Religious Education:** There have been several listening sessions with parents, via Zoom, led by Pat Tomich. A report was generated. In 2022, there will be a ReBoot, to positively bring the RE parent community together.

**Synodality:** Pope Francis is initiating this. The Archdiocese of Chicago is trying to have parishes engage in conversations. We will discuss at the January PPC Meeting.

**New Business:** There is a new committee called Care of Creation, based on the principles of Laudato Si. Tony Quintinilla and Sara Feiberg would like to come to our January meeting to discuss their work and the plan for an educational meeting for parishioners in Oldershaw Hall.

We need bios from Marco and Graciela, Rob will handle the website. Perhaps the PPC could be introduced in the bulletins in January.

**Closing Prayer** – led by Father Tom.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:37 p.m..