

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

June 27, 2017

Minutes

Present: Kevin Axe, Damian Barta, Cynthia Judge, Sheila Hebein, Jose Moreno, Betsy Quinn, Dan Vicencio and Fr. Joe Tito

New Members in attendance: Fabiola Alfonso, Nora Bondi, Suzanne Lefevre and Yvonne Smith

Absent: Derrick Blakley and Deb Evans

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe offered the opening prayer.

Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue Presentation – Prior to the start of the regular PPC meeting, three St. Nick's parishioners, Nilce Landeau, Bob Heineman and Cristie Traina gave a presentation on the proposed Lutheran-Catholic Covenant and the possible events that may involve members of St. Nicholas.

Nilce described the local Covenant between Catholic and Lutheran faith communities of Evanston that is being developed. There will also be a Diocesan Covenant between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Metropolitan Chicago Synod and the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The St. Nicholas Interfaith Committee will be setting up the events with the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue committee looking at synergies to add to already existing events planned in the St. Nicholas and Lutheran parishes. Cristie added that the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue members would like the St. Nicholas various committees to be aware of the existing activities at other Lutheran congregations in order to encourage the groups to work together.

The Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue committee is planning a couple of upcoming meetings to see what St. Nicholas Ministry leaders would need to start engaging with external parishes/congregations. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for the weekend of July 22/23. This information will be in the bulletin.

Bob Heineman discussed the draft of the Evanston Covenant and the process of finalizing before the October dates. The Evanston celebration will be at Garrett Theological Seminary **and the Diocesan Covenant Renewal Service will be held in Chicago on October 31, 2017.**

Introductions: Our four new PPC members introduced themselves and continuing and outgoing members also introduced themselves.

Minutes – The minutes of the May 23, 2017 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Cynthia J and seconded by Betsy Quinn. They were unanimously approved.

Parish Updates – Fr. Tito gave the Parish Updates and began by giving a short introduction as to the aims and functioning of the Parish Pastoral Council in the life of the Parish.

Youth Ministry – It has been difficult to coordinate the schedule of leaders of the four catholic

parishes in Evanston. An area-wide coordinator is being contemplated to maintain and grow the web presence and run one or two large events per year for Evanston youth. In addition each of the parishes would be maintaining some local parish youth activities. It is hoped that St. Nicholas will have some funds available by January 2018 from the "To Teach Who Christ is Campaign."

Tierra y Luz Dance group – Monica Anton is the new director of this dance group and presently there are about 15 kids who have signed up to be part of the group.

Make up of PPC – Fr. Joe noted that there would be a staggered addition to the PPC in the coming months. Those who had self-nominated will be notified as openings occur.

PPC Spanish Language Subcommittee - Fr. Joe noted that this subcommittee met in May to discuss issues and topics important to the Spanish-speaking community. Some of the topics discussed were described. Progress of some of the proposed events in the community was discussed. Leadership training for Hispanic members will be starting in the fall.

Financial Status – there is currently a deficit of approximately \$30,000. Fewer members of the Financial Council will be analyzing the numbers and more people will be looking at increasing stewardship and engagement.

Announcement Policy – input by staff members into the Announcement Policy developed by Dan Vicencio will be added by Fr. Joe (Sheila will contact Alex about this.)

Rummage Sale – Everyone was encouraged to sign up to help with the Rummage Sale, which will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2017.

Listening Sessions – these small-group sessions were held after all the Masses the first weekend in June. Cynthia J. and Jose M. gave summaries of the comments from the English and the Spanish sessions. The English sessions were held in small groups and the Spanish sessions were held with the larger groups who attended the 9 am and 1 pm Spanish Masses. Many of the comments of what people liked about St. Nicholas parish were quite personal. Communication issues were also strong themes from both communities. Sheila and Cynthia will work on a way that these can be shared more broadly with the parish at-large.

PPC Update – A joint PPC gathering was held on Saturday, June 10 at St. Mary's. PPC members from St. Mary's, St. Athanasius and St. Nick's. Six members from St. Nicholas attended. It started with 8 am Mass and then a shared breakfast gathering. There was no agenda – just an opportunity to take a small step in the Renew My Church process.

United Power – There will be a meeting sponsored by United Power on Wednesday, July 19 – it will be held in Oldershaw Hall at 7 pm.

Military Families – Parishioner, Jack Tuohy said he would be interested in talking with our other interested parishioners, but he will be in Germany for the summer, so this is on hold for now.

We thanked Derrick Blakley, Deb Evans and Dan Vicencio who are leaving the PPC after providing wonderful, faithful service.

Fr. Joe offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

