

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

July 25, 2017

Minutes

Present: Kevin Axe, Fabiola Alfonso, Nora Bondi, Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Betsy Quinn, and Fr. Joe Tito

Absent: Suzanne Lefevre and Yvonne Smith

Opening Prayer – Kevin A. led the opening prayer.

Minutes – The minutes of the June 27 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Damian B and seconded by Betsy Q. They were unanimously approved.

Lutheran/Catholic Reformation – Cynthia attended one of the meetings held at St. Nick's last weekend. She reported that approximately 6 people attended and the discussion was informative.

Parish Updates – Fr. Tito gave the Parish Updates:

Communication/Announcement Policy – there was a lengthy discussion on the draft of a new Communication/Announcement policy, which was originally drafted by Dan Vicencio for the PPC and then comments and suggestions by staff were incorporated. The bulletin and website were discussed. Communication in general is very important and knowing what our policies are is good for PPC members and parish staff. There was also a discussion about inserts in the bulletin and who decides when inserts are used versus items in the bulletin. There was also a discussion on where our policies and procedures are kept. Fr. Joe will look into this. The possibility of developing a pilot program to develop a shorter bulletin – this was especially of interest to the Spanish-speaking community.

There is also a need to develop good, clear communication between Pope John XXIII School and the parish. Communication within the school is also important.

Setting priorities is always challenging, but understanding how decisions are made can be very helpful not only to staff and councils, but also to parishioners in general.

Staff update: Mary Erickson who had been a part-time member of staff providing bookkeeping and other financial services has retired, so some of these services are now being obtained through the diocese, plus we have the assistance of an intern at this time.

Youth – it is hoped that a position serving area youth will be developed in the near future. On August 2nd pastors from Sts. Nicholas, Mary, Athanasius, Joan of Arc, Lambert and Peter will meet to discuss the possibility of hiring a person to provide youth services to all the parishes. This would be in addition to each parish providing some direct services to youth within their parish.

Music Director – Our new music director, Ace Gangoso started on July 10th and he is off to a good beginning.

PPC Spanish Subcommittee – many members of this group have been involved in a diocesan program recently, so this subcommittee has not met recently, but it is expected to meet again in the near future. Fr. Joe has heard some questions in the Hispanic community, such as “Why don’t we kneel at St. Nick’s?”

PPC Membership: Some additional people will be added to the council within the next couple of months. This was Kevin’s last PPC meeting and he was thanked for his service and for his humor. Those leaving the council this summer are: Kevin Axe, Derrick Blakley, Deb Evans and Dan Vicencio. All have served the parish well.

Rummage Sale – Fr. Joe reported that approximately \$51,000 was raised this year at the Rummage Sale. There was a discussion about how we do clean up and further dialogue seems in order.

Listening Sessions – Fr. Joe will incorporate some of the suggestions raised during the listening sessions held the first weekend in June, in one of his columns in the bulletin. Cynthia and Sheila will give a more detailed report at the next PPC meeting.

United Power – Damian reported that 42 people attended the meeting held in Oldershaw Hall on July 19th, including many St. Nick’s parishioners plus several agency staff who provide services to persons with Mental Illness in this area. The discussion centered on the need for a Crisis Intervention Center in the Evanston area. The feedback was very positive and many people indicated they are interested in staying involved in this process with United Power.

It was decided that the PPC would meet in August – on the 22nd at 7 pm in the dining room.

Fr. Joe offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.