

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
August 22, 2017
Minutes

Present: Fabiola Alfonso, Nora Bondi, Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Suzanne Lefevre, Michael O'Donovan, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith and Fr. Joe Tito

Absent: Jose Moreno

Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe offered the opening prayer at 7:05 pm.

Minutes – The minutes of the July 25th meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Betsy Q and seconded by Michael O. They were unanimously approved.

Introductions - PPC members welcomed new member, Michael O'Donovan and everyone introduced themselves and told a little about their involvement in the parish.

Parish Updates –

St. Nicholas PPC – Fr. Joe noted that in some religious communities the parish council is a governing body, but in the Catholic Church it plays an advisory role. Decisions here at St. Nicholas are made in concert with the Pastor, Parish Staff and Parish Council. Council members are encouraged to bring issues to the meetings. We make every effort to be transparent, posting minutes of council meetings on the parish website and we also post bios and photos of council members. Another way to let parishioners know who we are is to wear a name badge in church and at other church functions. Fr. Joe mentioned that we might want to form subcommittees to focus on three important areas during the coming year:

- Welcome and Engagement
- Liturgy
- Youth

The Finance Council was described as the group that makes decisions about financial matters in concert with the Business Manager and the Pastor.

PPC Spanish Subcommittee – this group has met several times and they have discussed various issues. Some ideas suggested: a summer camp for Latino children, a Bible study late in the day – perhaps from 4 to 6 pm. Approximately 11 people are interested in participating in a diocesan leadership training program – this involves attending training once a week for 2 years. It has been 6 years since members of our Hispanic community received such training and it was 19 years prior to that. We have some special funding to cover the costs. One person is interested in Bible Study, which is a 2 – 3 year program. It

will be important to identify areas where we can plug people in when they finish these training programs.

Our new deacon, Jaime Rojas and his wife, Leonor will be focusing on ministry to couples. They are also interested in providing catechesis for parents during the time that the Hispanic children are attending Religious Education on Saturday mornings.

Children's Liturgy of the Word in Spanish is now being held during the 9 am Mass in the chapel. The plan is to have the leaders of this group connect with Jackie Beale-Delvechio and Nora Bondi who are responsible for this program in English.

Our Hispanic community is involved in V Encuentro, which is similar to Renew My Church. It is the fifth time it has been held in the U.S. – 1972 – 1978 – 1985 and 2000. It is a local, regional and national program. In the year 2000 the theme was "From Acceptance to Integration." The method of See, Judge and Act" is used in this program.

Youth – James Holzhauser-Chuckas and Gustavo Arreguin want to work with youth. Five parishes in the area are pursuing the possibility of hiring a full-time Youth Minister for the Evanston area. The task now is to get all five parishes to make a commitment to funding this important ministry. St. Nick's will have some funding for this purpose from our new Capital Campaign, "To Teach Who Christ Is" during the coming year.

A good discussion ensued and various ideas were shared. It's important to connect young people with the community – name the God presence where they are gathering. There needs to be a setting where they can share the joy of their Faith. At the meetings for parents of youth held earlier this year, several people said they would be interested in helping with youth activities. We should discuss this with James to determine what people offered to do. One possibility mentioned was to have a club sponsored and developed by kids in the public schools. Since everyone agreed that Youth Ministry is critical, we agreed to give it more thought to it and we will allow more time for this discussion at our September meeting.

Finances/Annual Report – We ended this fiscal year (6/30/17) on a positive note. In part that was due to a mild winter with very little snow and so, we didn't have to pay for a lot of snow removal or salt. Also, our full-time Music Director position was not filled. The Annual Report will be ready and mailed by October 1, 2017. Our 2012 "Reaching Out To Our Future" will end in October and it has been very successful – we brought in 93% of our goal, which is excellent. Fr. Joe said there would be a party to celebrate this accomplishment in November. We discussed other possibilities that might help us to acknowledge this generosity. Parish staff will also discuss this.

Sound System – our sound system in church is being worked on and many people will be happy when this is accomplished. Fr. Joe said part of this new sound system would include a loop to enable people who wear hearing aids to tap right into the sound system. To date we have \$208,000 toward this important project.

Sr. Christina's Celebration – A reception following the 4:30 Mass will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017. This is to celebrate Christina's Golden Anniversary/Jubilee. All are invited and if PPC members would like to help, please let Cynthia Judge know.

Listening Sessions – Sheila will email the draft of a report on the Listening Sessions we held the first weekend in June. She will send it to all PPC members for their input and then the report will be sent to Alex for translation. The report in English and Spanish will then be posted on the website. Fr. Joe will highlight some of the findings in one of his weekly columns in the bulletin.

Renew My Church – Sheila and Suzanne attended a meeting on this topic at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles. About 25 people attended. Currently there are 2 pilot programs – one in Wilmette and surrounding areas and one in Humboldt Park. The effort is to look ahead so that we are ready for the changes that are occurring. There is a need for the experience of community – there is great energy and joy when our churches are filled.

Communication – it was agreed that as a parish we need to work on communication. We could anticipate many issues that arise and let people know what is happening. Youth Ministry and the sound system were 2 areas we might work on.

Fr. Joe offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.