

**ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**  
**October 24, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Damian Barta, Nora Bondi, Sheila Hebein, Suzanne Lefevre, Jose Moreno, Michael O'Donovan, Yvonne Smith, Fr. Joe Tito

**Absent:** Fabiola Alfonso, Cynthia Judge, Betsy Quinn

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Tito opened the meeting with prayer at 7:10 pm. We prayed over the readings of the day.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 26, 2017 meeting were reviewed and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Michael O'Donovan and seconded by Suzanne Lefevre. Minutes were approved unanimously with no amendments or changes.

**Pastor's Report – Fr. Tito**

- Young adult members of the parish attended (re)ENCOUNTER, a Young Adult Faith Night, sponsored by the Archdiocese on October 20. Special guest speaker was actor Mark Wahlberg who spoke in an interview format with Cardinal Cupich. The Archdiocese has also launched a revamped "Theology on Tap" program entitled Six Weeks with the Word of God in an effort to engage young adults in the faith.
- James Chuckas who has been volunteering as the lead person with the teen youth program has been hired on a 3-month contract through January 2018. He will work part-time to further develop the Teen Leadership Team (TLT). The goal of the TLT is to continue to identify, encourage, and develop teen leaders. Because the teen years are short, it is important that TLT is always bringing in new members and ideas.
- Sheila Hebein also stressed that it is important to continue to identify good mentors for the TLT and make sure they are good personality matches to ensure the success of the initiative.
- Fr. Tito also reported that it is a real challenge to work across parishes to get a youth initiative going due to the many different schedules and priorities of our neighboring parishes.
- The welcome stand manned by parishioners in front of church during Bike the Ridge on October 1 was a great success. Many people stopped to chat, including parishioners leaving mass. Having the leftover food from Sr. Christina's jubilee celebration the night before was a great asset. It was recommended that a similar welcoming presence be repeated for next year's Bike the Ridge event.

**Parish Service Trip**

- Pat Trafton and Jeanne Brabeck made a presentation on the 2018 parish service trip, St. Nick's fifth such trip. It will be focused on helping the participants understand the reasons for migration and experience some of the aspects of being a migrant. The trip

will take place July 28 – August 4 in Tucson, AZ and will be conducted in conjunction with a local non-profit, Border Link.

- The trip is limited to 13 adults or teens and the organizers hope to have a cross-section of people from the parish attend. The trip would include an opportunity to cross the border but only if all members of the group felt they could legally do so. If any members could not do that, no members of the trip would cross.
- Cost is \$325 per person before transportation costs. Fundraising will be conducted to raise the \$350 estimated cost of airfare per person. Previous service trip fundraising has generated a surplus that is expected to be used to cover these costs. A separate bank account is being established to collect funds and handle expenses for the service trips.
- There will also be pre-trip formation activities for the participants.
- Fr. Tito reported that he is asking that a steering team be established to conduct more broad-based discussion of the choice of service trip venues in the future. He would also like to see the choice of future trips connected to other ministries of the parish.

### **Serving Families of Young Children**

- Nora Bondi presented a document summarizing the various activities and ministries in the parish that may be of interest to families with young children.
- The text in this document would be used to create special signs that will be placed in the church and other parish buildings. The signs are intended to let parents of young children know what ministries and activities are available to them, especially as their children grow. The goal is to send a positive message that families of young children are welcome at St. Nicholas.
- Nora is also working with other ministry leaders to utilize this text with attractive graphics to create these signs/posters.

### **Announcement Training**

- Pastoral Council members are being asked to take turns with making Sunday announcements. Cynthia Judge has offered to training on how to best deliver the announcements and utilize a microphone.
- Training dates will be scheduled in the near future.

### **Pastoral Council Members Involvement**

- In response to Council members wishing to be involved with moving parish initiatives forward, the following members volunteered to work with Fr. Tito and other members of the parish staff in the following areas:
  - Welcoming and Engagement
    - Sheila Hebein, Suzanne Lefevre, Yvonne Smith
  - Youth and Young Families
    - Damian Barta, Nora Bondi, Michael O'Donovan

**Meeting Adjourned** at 9:10 pm.

**Minutes submitted** by Suzanne Lefevre