

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
November 28, 2017
Minutes

Present: Fabiola Alfonso, Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Suzanne Lefevre, Jose Moreno, Michael O'Donovan, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith, Fr. Joe Tito

Absent: Nora Bondi, Cynthia Judge

Opening Prayer: The meeting opened with prayer at 7:10 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 24, 2017 meeting were reviewed and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Damian Barta and seconded by Betsy Quinn. Minutes were approved unanimously with no amendments or changes.

Chair's Report – Sheila Hebein

- All Pastoral Council members were asked to sell Holiday Festival raffle tickets.
- The Interfaith Action of Evanston Thanksgiving service was held at the Jewish Reconstructionist Synagogue on November 22. Approximately 250 people attended representing many of the Interfaith Action congregation members. Parishioner Cristie Traina was one of the speakers. Discussion followed about whether St. Nicholas should offer to host the event next year. It was suggested that Coro Hispano might provide some of the music. It was suggested that Tom Carney, parishioner and VP on Interfaith Action's board should be contacted about developing this idea.
- End-of-mass announcement training for Pastoral Council members will be deferred until January 2018. Cynthia Judge will conduct the training but has limited time in December do to some new work obligations.
- The annual Staff/Pastoral Council Potluck Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018. All members of the parish staff and the Pastoral Council are invited to come and bring a dish to share. The schedule is: 5:00 pm – Set-up; 5:30 pm – Dinner; 7:00 pm – Pastoral Council meeting.
- Through an email, Nora Bondi reported that the Children's Book Bag project has started well. There are 10 bags with 3 books each in both the Church and the Chapel. Feedback from families with children has been positive.
- Through an email, Jeannie Brabeck reported that the Christmas Shoebox effort generated 212 wrapped boxes of gifts (a record amount for our parish) that will be sent to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center in South Dakota which serves Native American families in the Dakotas and Minnesota. She also reported that the summer service trip to the Arizona border is fully subscribed with 14 adults planning on going.
- One of the parish's biggest fundraisers, the Parish Winter Party will be held February 10, 2018 at Misericordia. Suggestions for how to target the Paddle Raise were solicited. They included replacing the old oblong tables in Oldershaw Hall as well as providing funding for Pastoral Ministry, including the Stephen Ministry.

- Interfaith Action of Evanston's annual Vision Keeper Dinner is scheduled for February 18, 2018. Nominees for recognition from St. Nicholas are being solicited. Many of the previous years' honorees have been those who mostly attend the 9 am mass. It was hoped that this year's nominee might come from one of the other mass communities. The 2017 Vision Keeper from our parish was Yvonne Smith. Nominations need to be given to Interfaith Action by January 24, 2018.

Youth Representation on the Parish Pastoral Council

- James Chuckas, Youth Minister, asked that the Pastoral Council consider having a member of Youth Ministry be part of its membership.
- There was considerable discussion with the following recommendation made:
 - It was not seen as advisable to have a member of Youth Ministry being a permanent member of the PPC.
 - Rather, it was agreed that it would be highly desirable to have a member of the Teen Leadership Team (TLT) report to the PPC several times per year and then report back to the TLT.
 - Sheila would relay this opinion to James Chuckas.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Tito

- He and 7 members of the Youth Ministry attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis (Nov. 16-18). Donations of \$500 each from Bishop Kane, Knights of Columbus, and a Go Fund Me page helped to defray the cost. Fr. Tito found it very dynamic and spiritually energizing. The youth found it great to meet so many other young people with the same faith and religious background. Next year's conference will also be held in Indianapolis. World Youth Day will be held in Panama one year (Jan. 22-27, 2019). As a reminder the monthly Youth Mass will be held the 3rd Sunday of the month at 11 am.
- The Liturgy Board has begun meeting.
- The October count (mass census) for 2017 was 1,183 compared to 1,092 in 2016
 - The primary reason for the increase was the popularity the Chapel mass at 9 am on Sunday.
- The Christmas mass schedule was announced.
 - Since the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve, the mass schedule will be:
 - Saturday 4:30 pm
 - Sunday 9:00 am in both church (English) and chapel (Spanish)
 - No 11:00 am mass
 - Sunday 1:00 pm mass (Spanish) in the chapel
 - Christmas Masses in the church are:
 - Christmas Eve (Sunday, Dec. 24) 3:00 pm (Family mass in English)
 - Christmas Eve (Sunday, Dec. 24) 5:00 pm (Family mass in Spanish with some English)
 - Christmas Eve - Lessons and Carols – 9:30 pm

- Christmas Eve – 10:30 Mass (English)
- Christmas Day – 10:00 am (English)
- Celebration of Kwanzaa will be at the 4:30 pm mass on Dec. 30. Potluck dinner to follow.

United Power for Action and Justice Stakeholder Meeting – Damian Barta

- United Power for Action and Justice will sponsor a Public Assembly on Dec. 5 at 7 pm. in the Pope John 23 School Cafeteria on the topic of “Mental Health Treatment, NOT Incarceration”. The goal is to work on solutions to the growing problem of persons with mental illness being incarcerated or otherwise ending up in the criminal justice system rather than getting needed mental health treatment.
- This is an important meeting to generate support from local police departments and hospitals to work together. It is hoped that large public support at this meeting will motivate hospitals and mental health providers to develop Crisis Stabilization Units to which persons in mental health crisis can be admitted rather than being arrested and incarcerated which is often the case. Representatives of the Evanston Police Department and the Evanston Public Health Department are expected to attend.
- All member of the PPC would encourage to attend and to invite others.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Suzanne Lefevre

Attachment A: Serving Families with Children (Email from Nora Bondi)