

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

February 27, 2018

Minutes

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

Absent: Suzanne Lefevre

Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe began the meeting with the opening prayer at 7:11 pm

Minutes – The minutes of the January 23rd meeting were reviewed. There was one correction- we should include our Youth Minister's full last name, James Holzhauer-Chuckas. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Yvonne S and seconded by Damian B. They were unanimously approved.

Parish Updates – Fr. Tito gave the Parish Updates:

Youth Minister – We are still negotiating a job description and salary for our Area Youth Minister. Fiscal Diocesan salary schedules for fiscal 2019 will be available soon and will be used to establish a salary for this position. The youth minister will be housed here at St. Nicholas which will be factored in to reduce our percentage of the financial contribution when the four area pastors who are committing to this ministry sign the final agreement.

Staff Salaries – In response to a question by a member of the council, Fr. Joe explained that there are Diocesan Pay Scales for each position – with three levels for each position. Salary amounts for individual staff members are not published, but a line item for staff is included in our Annual Financial Report. Deacons do not receive a salary, but can receive a stipend.

Pope John XXIII School – meetings will take place shortly to finalize our commitment to Pope John 23rd for the next three years.

The Tax Credit Scholarship application deadline was February 27 – one PPC member said she had completed the application.

Confessions – Confessions were heard at St. Nicholas on February 26 for the Evanston community. Confessions for those receiving First Communion and for those being Confirmed were also heard. St. Mary's will have additional group confession during Holy Week.

Jewish Synagogues Petition – Fr. Bob sent an email asking Fr. Joe to sign a petition that gives permission to Evanston area Jewish communities to enlarge their "domain". Fr. Tito signed it.

Holy Week – There was a lengthy discussion on whether or not the altar platform should be moved on Good Friday. We discussed the pros and cons of moving the platform – the risks and

rewards of this action. Ultimately, the PPC voted unanimously to recommend that the platform not be moved. Even if those on the liturgy committee felt there was no danger to the newly installed speakers – some of which are in the platform, it was felt that it was an unnecessary risk. We can still create a somber mood for Good Friday and accessibility will not be harmed because the cross could easily be brought to the edge of the platform when that is appropriate. The PPC will recommend that we not move the platform– use this year as an experiment year and then evaluate it after Holy Week.

PPC Reports – Sanctuary Community - The Peace and Justice Committee is working with other Evanston congregations on a document that declares that St. Nicholas is a Sanctuary Community. Sheila condensed the document as it pertained to St. Nicholas parish. The following questions and points were made:

- How would Peace and Justice like the PPC to help convey this to the parish at large?
- We might suggest some actions to the parish and ask parishioners to comment on them.
- PPC already sees St. Nick's as a Sanctuary Community. Perhaps P&J could be clearer about what this exactly means to St. Nicholas Parish.
- St. Nick's belongs to the Chicago Archdiocese and while some churches have become "Sanctuaries" for those seeking protection and sanctuary, we cannot provide that kind of sanctuary.
- Perhaps the word "Sanctuary" is misleading and we should ask P&J to clarify that.
- We might develop a broader conversation about what is best for our parish.
- A lot of those items listed in the Sanctuary document are already being done and our Hispanic community has taken advantage of many workshops and Rights meetings in Spanish.
- Our Hispanic community should definitely be involved these discussions.

Armenian Community – The St. James Armenian Church in Evanston wishes to acknowledge the 130th anniversary of St. Nicholas Parish – we helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015. The Armenian community would like to reciprocate and will join us at the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, April 28th and there will be a reception right after Mass..

Meetings - United Power – There will be a United Power Action on Sunday, March 11th at Maine East High School from 4 pm to 5:15 pm. Ten candidates running for the office of Illinois Attorney General have all been invited and many are expected to attend. Damian is expecting about 30 St. Nicholas members to attend and carpools are being organized to the event.

Solidarity Prayer Service - Also on March 11th at St. Nicholas Church there will be an Interfaith Prayer Service from 4:30 – 6 pm to show solidarity with Immigrants, Refugees and Dreamers.

New Business – Since the regular March PPC meeting falls during Holy Week, we will meet the following week on April 3rd. Sheila will confirm this.

Welcoming Committee - It would be good to recruit some new members for the Welcoming Committee and for PPC members who indicated an interest in this to get involved.

Church Announcement Training – We had scheduled a January date to do this training in church, but it was cancelled because of snow. Therefore, Cynthia provided a training session at the end of our PPC meeting and it was very helpful. PPC members have agreed to share the responsibility for the announcements and Cynthia will be responsible for coordinating this. Since Alex puts the announcements together on Friday, she usually sends them to Marion and she will also send them to Cynthia who will send them to those PPC members who have accepted the responsibility for the various Masses each weekend. When in doubt – check with Cynthia.

Closing Prayer – Sheila said the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.