

ST. NICHOLAS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

April 3, 2018

Minutes

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

Absent: Damian Barta and Jose Juan Moreno

Opening Prayer – Fr. Tito gave the Opening Prayer at 7:10 pm

Minutes – The minutes of the February 27th meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Betsy Q and seconded by Suzanne L. They were unanimously approved.

Parish Updates – Fr. Tito brought greetings from Fathers Britto, Bill, and Mike – he saw our former pastors at a priests' dinner the day after Easter. He also saw them at the Monks, Wine and Candles dinner.

Confirmation at St. Nick's - Cardinal Cupich liked being here for Confirmation and he wished he had more time to visit with parishioners. Fr. Joe said that Cardinal Cupich asked in his homily "Do you love the life that God has given you?" As he signed each confirmation candidates' forehead he said, "This is your Cross, but Jesus will meet you there."

YOUTH - James is officially with us at St. Nick's in his position as Youth Minister. He will do one-on-one meetings with each Pastor and he will spend a weekend in each Parish once Religious Ed ends.

Armenian Celebration – this will take place here at St. Nick's on April 28th. The purpose is to celebrate St. Nicholas' 130th anniversary, which was last year. This is to enable St. James Armenian Church members to reciprocate the joint celebration we had with them on their 100th anniversary. Fr. Tito met their Pastor and they decided to celebrate after the 4:30 Mass in Oldershaw Hall and afterwards there will be a prayer service.

USE OF SPACE – we have received requests to use St. Nicholas space for Yoga and Zumba. Yoga is with prayer and incense.

There are three AA meetings each week at St. Nick's – they represent different groups and they do make a contribution to the parish.

Suzanne shared, from her years on the Parish Staff:

"Spaces are available for regular ministries; others are ad hoc and should be considered on a case-by-case basis. We're not set up to do Birthday parties, Baptism parties, etc.

Some compensation is only fair for anyone who uses our space. Insurance is also a consideration. It would be good to develop a policy and set of procedures covering use of space.

It was suggested that Ridgeville Park District, which is located on Ridge might be a good place to hold Zumba and Yoga.

Altar Platform – The process of determining whether or not the altar platform should be moved on Good Friday was excellent. The second meeting of the Liturgy Committee was well attended and the discussion was open and productive.

- One person who felt that the platform should not be moved expressed it this way: “The altar needs to be there like my grandmother’s empty chair.”
- Another said: “It’s all together, the platform is part of the altar, so why would you move it?”
- Another person said that when the platform was moved, it reminded her of an empty tomb .
- Someone else said, “I am not a very religious person, but coming into the empty church moves me.”
- Jose Juan wasn’t able to attend the meeting, but in an email he said, “Jesus fills our emptiness.”

After an open discussion, it was decided that the platform would not be moved on Good Friday.

Betsy commended Fr. Tito for how he facilitated the discussion of this issue.

Any other comments on Holy Week should be sent to Lynne Mapes Riordan, chair of the Liturgy Committee.

- Other thoughts on Holy Week from PPC members:
 - Perhaps combining ushers and greeters would help with the shortage of ushers. Someone should be in charge of recruiting ushers
 - Young people witnessed on Holy Thursday and it was very memorable.

PPC Reports – Sheila

- Peace and Justice committee members are currently working on finalizing a Sanctuary Community document for St. Nick’s.
- St. Mary’s is hosting an International Speaker, Nasareen Sheikh, on April 19th and we should try to attend.
- The week of April 15th there will be a retreat sponsored by the four Evanston parishes – St. Mary, St. Nicholas, St. Joan of Arc and St Athanasius. It will be held at St. Athanasius Parish.
- Next year’s Winter Parish Party will be held at Misericordia on March 2, 2019. This year’s event raised a total of \$76,000 net after expenses. Hats off to Jean O’Keefe and Chris and their hard working committee.
- Nora described a draft of the sign she is working on which highlight our programs and services for children. Malachy Cross is working on the design of the sign. There was a discussion on what should be included:
 - Use fewer words and omit the contact information. However, the contact information and more details should be on the website.

- In addition to having the sign next to the book bags by the font, one should also be placed by the Ridge Avenue entrance. Also one will be placed in the chapel. Additional possibilities were also discussed including the preschool and Pope John XXIII School.
- Should another book tree be placed in the chapel?
- Hispanic Religious Ed and Children's Liturgy of the Word in Spanish should be included.
- Print the sign and place it as an insert in the bulletin a few times a year.
- Perhaps this could be launched on May 6, the last day of SCORE.
- A section on seasonal events could also be included when appropriate.
- Send additional suggestions to Nora ASAP.

United Power – Yvonne

- Over 1200 people turned out on March 11th for the United Power event at Maine East High School in Park Ridge. It was a diverse group and a Muslim Brownie Troop did the Pledge of Allegiance. Candidates were asked to respond to the issues of United power's 4 points (mental health, gun issues, etc.) It was planned for 1 hour and 15 minutes and it ended early. Each candidate was given 3 minutes to state their position on the issues and pledged to work with United Power if they were elected.
- The St. Nick's group is working to have a Crisis Stabilization Center in Evanston and Skokie. St. Francis Hospital is now part of Amita Health, so they are just in the process of meeting with Amita to learn more about how this will impact St. Francis. A group of United Power/St. Nicholas people met with St. Francis Hospital on April 2nd to discuss the possibility of St. Francis developing a Crisis Stabilization Center. Those from St. Nicholas who were in attendance were Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Mike Kelly, Dan Maloney, Tom Paine, and Yvonne Smith. Greg also participated plus several staff members from St. Francis. We learned that St. Francis does have any psychiatrists on their staff.

Announcements – Cynthia

- Set a schedule for PPC members to do the Announcements. Cynthia will get the Announcements from Alex/Marion and send them along to whomever is scheduled.
- A question was raised about the scheduling of Eucharistic Ministers.

New Business

None

Closing Prayer

Fr. Tito offered the closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:49 pm.