

St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council

July 24, 2018

Minutes

PRESENT: Fabiola Alfonso, Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Suzanne Lefevre, Michael O'Donovan, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith, Fr. Tito

ABSENT: Nora Bondi, Arturo Medina, Jose Moreno

Meeting began at 7:15 p.m., after an informal discussion of the Rummage Sale.

Opening Prayer – Fr. Tito, from Pope Francis

Minutes – A motion to approve the amended June 26, 2018 Minutes was made by Betsy, seconded by Yvonne and were unanimously approved.

Parish Updates – Fr. Tito

- **Work at the Border:** Fr. Joe was commended for his homily on Sunday, July 22nd at the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses, about his experience with Father Jack Wall & Catholic Extension at the Border; he hopes that we can continue our connection with Catholic Extension. Some of the asylum seekers may end up in our Parish. 14 people from St. Nick's will leave on July 28th for the 5th Parish Service Trip. They will be going to the border in Arizona, where they will be learning about issues there and working with Notre Dame Sisters. Fr. Tito met with Jeanne Brabeck, Pat Trafton and others, to discuss his trip, before they leave on July 28th. He suggested that maybe we can focus our efforts on the Texas border with a Service Trip there next year, perhaps even driving a truck with excess furniture and goods from the Rummage Sale. There are many places in need, such as Haiti and Puerto Rico, where 75,000 people have left the island because of lack of electricity and schools.
- We may explore how other Mission Trips are done (Sheil, St. Clements). We should evaluate our Parish commitments and decide what is prudent from there.
- **Renew My Church** – There is a soft collaboration between Renew My Church and work at the Border. St. Peter's has a new Pastor, they are part of our group of Parishes. Cardinal Cupich hosted a dinner with 22 priests at Mundelein, Father Tito attended. The Cardinal will hold these dinners to discuss issues (immigration was a topic at this dinner) and also foster these relationships, which are integral to the next phase of Renew My Church, which is Evangelization. As Pope Francis said "This is not an era of change, it's change of an era."

- Youth: 12 teens are going to Loyola Retreat Center for a Retreat, July 27-29th. There were several bike rides to raise money. The Retreat costs \$300 per person and two of the teens raised their whole amount. 5 Adults will be going with our teens. We are not involved as a Parish in the Kairos Retreat this year. Bill McCarthy and David Heinemann have recruited teens on their own. There is also a 24 hour Youth Retreat (no cellphones) in early August, to be led by those who completed the Loyola Retreat. Thirty of our young people participated in the Evanston Soccer Festival on July 14th at Kamen Park. Ours was the largest group of participants. Youth Adult Board is going well, Nora represents the PPC as a Youth Board Member.

PPC Reports –

- **Lemonade on the Lawn** is going well; Fabiola and Damian led the weekend of July 22nd; Evanston Black Catholics on July 29th; lemonade is usually made ahead of time; 2 buckets were used this weekend for the 3 Sunday Masses.
- **Website:** Fr. Tito brought our concern of the Website not being current (especially the fact that current Bulletins aren't posted) to the Staff. The problem still exists and further communication will take place. Michael O'Donovan offered his assistance, if needed.
- **Virtus Training:** We are waiting for an exact date of the Train the Trainer, it will be in the Fall, maybe early October. The goal is to have 4 Parishioners as Trainers, 2 of them to be Bilingual. Might Christine Hailey also be a Virtus Trainer?
- **Rummage Sale** - \$48,000 was raised, down from \$55,000. Fewer people donated things, fewer purchased. The issue was raised that it was hard to move among all the furniture in the Cafeteria. Salvation Army backed out on Friday, they had been planning to take leftover furniture. Yvonne said that there was no bag sale in Oldershaw Hall, which was a huge help. The suggestion was made to post some of the results from the Rummage Sale Committee Evaluation. It may be time to make some changes.
- **Property Update:** – A new roof will be put on the School on August 6th; the work will be done by Wright Roofing Company, cost is approximately \$75,000. The Company was vetted by the Building Committee. Landscaping between the School and Social Hall is taking place. A 4-year plan to do tuckpointing on Oldershaw Hall will begin soon.
- **Give Central** : Our Parish will be switching to Faith Direct in the Fall; contract looked at by John Kelsh and Doreen, who made suggestions, and the Finance Council approved it. Faith Direct gives better Customer Service, it is a Virginia company that has been around for years. There were many complaints about Give Central.

Father Tito and Cynthia reported that the **Liturgy Board** meets regularly. There will be Catechesis offered on several weekends throughout the coming year during the Homily. The first is scheduled for October 13-14. Parishioners have been asking for this.

Damian reported on **United Power**. He and Yvonne and Sheila, along with other St. Nick's parishioners and United Power Organizer, Amy Totsch, have been meeting with Northshore and St. Francis Hospitals about expanding Mental Health Care. If the State of Illinois can come through with funding, St. Francis will be expanding what they offer. The organization Turning Point will possibly open up a site there, for those in crisis. St. Nicholas will host a 5 week session on Mental Health, offering support groups for family members of those with mental illness, from a Faith perspective. Chris Murphy is the contact person for this project.

Father Tito reported that both the Green Team and the Gay and Lesbian Family and Friends are wondering what their next steps should be.

Sheila gave the Closing Prayer.

Meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Cynthia Judge