

St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council
January 22, 2019

Present: Father Joseph Tito, Fabiola Alfonso, Nora Bondi, Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Suzanne Lefevre, Michael O'Donovan

Absent: Arturo Medina, Jose Juan Moreno, Betsy Quinn, and Yvonne Smith

Opening Prayer: 7:11 pm – Father Tito shared the Pilgrim Prayer, the Official Prayer for World Youth Day, Panama, 2019. Also, prayers were said for Betsy Quinn's mother, as she was approaching surgery.

Approval of Minutes: Michael O'Donovan proposed a motion to approve the November 27, 2018 minutes, Fabiola Alfonso seconded and they were unanimously approved.

Parish Update - Father Tito: He began his remarks by reminding the PPC of the words of Pope Francis that we are in the midst of a radical era of change

- Christmas and other December activities at St. Nicks were reviewed.
 - The Holiday Festival was successful. The Chairs of the event for the past 6 years – Susan and Greg Allen – are stepping down. Thanks to them for their service! Changes to the Holiday Festival may happen with new Chairs next year. Our Teens were very helpful at the Pasta Dinner and throughout the weekend. Considering the wet, cold day on Saturday, December 1st, and the amazing people selling trees outside. Revenue was good, slightly down from last year.
 - Attendance was discussed at various Christmas Day Masses. The 3:00 Mass was very crowded, very beautiful. The 5:00 Mass became bilingual (it was intended to be a Spanish Mass), because Father Tito noted the number of Anglos in the congregation. We may add a noon Mass in Spanish on Christmas Day in 2019.
 - Simbang Gabi had bigger attendance than last year. Kwanzaa was well attended and the music was wonderful. The length of that Mass was discussed.
 - The Manger may be moved into a more prominent position next Season, to make it more visible.
- Service Trip – 2019: Jeanie Brabeck sent budget information for the trip to the Council, which was discussed. James and several youth leaders will go on the trip, with some youth from our Parish. There will be a total of 30 people going on this trip – 15 youth and 15 adults. Fundraisers (stock sales and youth fundraisers) will be held.
- Youth: There are events at our four Parishes in celebration of World Youth Day events. There will be a Kairos Retreat held at Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Center (LUREC) this summer.

- Nora will be working with Sean Lucas to have a gathering for parents of nursery school age children (pre-SCORE age). It will be held on a Sunday after the 9:00 Mass, in the lower level of the Rectory.
- The banner with information about various children's activities at St. Nicks, and the St. Nick's website were discussed.
- Director of Religious Education Position Update: The job description is being created, with a target of mid-February to post it. The committee of 9 will meet on January 23rd.
- Renew My Church: St. Joan of Arc School will close at the end of this School Year. There is discussion of a new, independent Catholic School being used in that space. This will have implications for Pope John XXII and St. Athanasius Schools. Also, the pastor at St. Joan of Arc will be leaving at the end of June. Change is happening, and the Renew My Church effort must be looking ahead to address these changes.
- The Green Team met on December 19th to discuss the joint program with the Armenian Church.

PPC Reports:

- **Vision Keeper Dinner:** Tom Carney will receive the St. Nicholas Award at the Dinner to be held on February 17th at the Orrington Hotel. Tom has been very involved at St. Nick's and with Interfaith Action of Evanston.
- **Interfaith Action of Evanston:** We need to clarify who will be the St. Nicholas representative.
- **List of those willing to represent St. Nick's at various community events:** Father Tito is interested in creating a group of Pastor Ambassadors, who will act as our representatives at various community events. We could do a small ceremony to commission them.
- **Listening Sessions/Meeting with Bishop Bartosic:** Father Tito, Sheila Hebein and Cynthia Judge met with Bishop Bartosic to discuss our October Listening Sessions and to give him our feedback from the Sessions. As stated in the Bulletin article, he was very appreciative of our Parish involvement and would like other parishes in our Vicariate to do similar Sessions.
- **Clericalism Survey, Archdiocesan Women's Committee:** Parishioner Julie Berggren would like the women of St. Nicholas to complete this short survey. The due date is February 20th. We will announce this in the Bulletin, on our website, at Announcements and do a Stay in the Loop.
- **Women in the Diaconate Update:** The group is trying to arrange a meeting with Cardinal Cupich before he leaves for the February Bishops Conference in Rome.

- **Financial implications of the abuse crisis:** Collections were down \$30,000 in our first quarter and approximately \$16,000 in our second quarter. Finance Committee representatives will speak to this at Masses this weekend. It was suggested that the message be tied to forgiveness and healing.
- **Raise the Paddle at Winter Parish Party:** Money raised has to be used for expenses in our operating budget, not any additional items. However, Sheila had met with the co-chairs of the Winter Parish Party and their suggestions were accepted by the council. Everyone agreed that more work should be done in Oldershaw Hall – especially in the washrooms. Also the need for items from the Arts and Environment Committee were strongly supported because they do such a wonderful job in enhancing our worship space.
- **MLK Adult Faith Enrichment:** The session was supposed to be bilingual, but there was a communication snafu. The Hispanic community was meeting in the Chapel after their 9:00 a.m. Mass to discuss formation for ReLent Groups. Therefore, the attendance was primarily those from the Anglo community.

New Business:

- **PPC/Staff Dinner:** The proposed date is Wednesday, February 6th.
- **Engagement/Welcome:** This topic will be a part of the regular February PPC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.