

St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council
February 26, 2019

Present: Father Joseph Tito, Fabiola Alfonso, Nora Bondi, Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Arturo Medina, Jose Juan Moreno, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith

Absent: Suzanne Lefevre, Michael O'Donovan

Opening Prayer: 7:08 p.m. by Father Tito

Approval of January 22, 2019 Minutes: Nora proposed a motion to approve, Damian seconded, approved by all except for Betsy who abstained because she was absent from that meeting.

Parish Update – Father Tito

- Service Trip – 2019 Jeanie Brabeck and Pat Trafton are efficiently organizing the trip. The youth who are going need to raise funds.
- Director of Religious Education Position: the job has been posted as of February 15th, interviews will begin next month; Juanita Tamayo will remain as head of Hispanic Religious Education
- Holy Week, including the Passion Play on Palm Sunday, and the Neighborhood Way of the Cross, was discussed. Details for the services need to be clarified.
- Timing for Services: Ash Wednesday's bilingual evening service will be at 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 7:30 p.m., and the Easter Vigil will begin at 8:00 p.m..
- Our numbers, physical and financial: Our October counts (numbers of people attending all Masses) were stable, in both Anglo and Hispanic communities.
- We are only about \$4,000 behind our budget, we've made great strides since the Fall, when the deficit was \$30,000.
- There will be a one week Summer Camp, Totus Tuus, on the campus of St. Nicholas in June. This will be in addition to the Pope John XXIII Summer Camps and Vacation Bible School.
- The diocese is doing two Catholic Sports camps this summer. On Saturday, March 2nd, "Living Priesthood" will be held, a program for teen boys who may consider the priesthood. The day includes service. A Family Catechesis Program Workshop will be held at St. Edwards Parish on March 12th.
- The Welcome to St. Nicholas sign for families with children has been printed (rough copy). Copies will ultimately be put on the kiosks in Church, as well as in the School. Thanks to Nora for all her efforts on this important project!
- Renew My Church: Father Tito explained the process throughout the Archdiocese with the various Waves. Our Wave will most likely begin in Fall, 2020. It would be a good idea to have the PPC's from our cohort of 3 or 4

parishes meet, to be in conversation with each other and getting to know each other, to prepare for whatever changes lie ahead. Cardinal Cupich is open to non-ordained Administrators.

PPC Reports

- This year St. Nicholas was blessed to have 2 of our members receive Vision Keeper Awards from Evanston Interfaith Action at their annual dinner on February 17. Tom Carney was the recipient for the St. Nicholas community and Damian Barta was nominated by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church where Damian is employed. Congratulations to them both.
- Interfaith Action of Evanston – Genny O'Toole has agreed to be the St. Nick's Representative – she will replace Laura Nutini who had been our Representative in the past.
- Family Promise – With Barbara Mott's departure, St. Nick's needs new leaders to continue our participation in this program. Names mentioned: Nora Bondi and family, Michelle Stalilonis and family; Kathy Kearns; Megan Kennedy- Farrell; the Golson Family. Nora cannot coordinate this ministry, but she took the responsibility to talk with other people who may be able to do it.
- List of those willing to represent St. Nick's at various committees: Names put forth by the Peace and Justice Committee: Eileen Heineman, Marion Flynn, Sheila Hebein, Margaret Feit-Clarke, Chris Murphy, Jaime Rojas, Yvonne Smith. P&J Committee is meeting on Sunday, March 3rd and will further the progress on this issue.
- Clericalism Survey from the Archdiocesan Women's Committee – approximately 50 parishioners from St. Nicholas completed the survey.
- Women in the Diaconate – Update: Cardinal Cupich is waiting for Pope Francis to further clarify his position, wants to postpone meeting with the group from St. Nicholas until then.
- Winter Parish Party – close to being sold out. It was mentioned that there have been many requests for donations, including the Annual Catholic Appeal. It is challenging for parishioners to support all these requests AND the WPP. A suggestion was made to think about adding complimentary or shared babysitting for the WPP, so that families with young children could attend, without the additional financial burden of childcare costs.

Welcome & Engagement

- Many ideas were discussed, and a sub-committee of the PPC will meet for further discussion to implement some ideas. Other parishioners will be invited to join the group as well. The goal is to put processes in place for welcoming new parishioners and hopefully, host an event, for new parishioners. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 26th. Because of Spring Break, the regular PPC meeting will not be held.

Website: Father Tito, Maureen and Alex participated in a phone interview with a representative from Weebly, a platform to host our site. The meeting was very positive. The three will talk with one more vendor and then will make a decision.

Obituaries: It was suggested that when we have obituaries in Stay In the Loop messages, we also include a photo of the person that has died. Not everyone knows a name, but we do know people by site and this would be very helpful.

PPC/Staff Dinner - A new date of April 10th will be proposed to the Staff.

Betsy thanked the PPC for the prayers for her mother.

Damian led the Closing Prayer.

The meeting concluded at 9:15 p.m..