

**St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council
Meeting on Welcoming & Engagement
March 26, 2019**

Present: Father Joseph Tito, Fabiola Alfonso, Damian Barta, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, and Suzanne Lefevre

Absent: Nora Bondi, Arturo Medina, Jose Juan Moreno, Michael O'Donovan, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith

Also in Attendance: Mary Burke Peterson, Baptisms Coordinator

Opening Prayer: 7:05 p.m. led by Father Tito – Renew My Church prayer

Because of Spring Break, and knowing there would be many PPC members out of town, this was a special meeting to discuss the issue of Welcoming. We were joined by Mary Burke Peterson, as she is the Baptism Coordinator for the English-speaking community.

Father Tito reported that some new leaders in the Hispanic Community (from the Pastoral Migratoria Group) are working on a class project centered on Welcoming and Engagement. They will share their project ideas, after their training ends in April or May.

Maureen Connolly and Abelardo Mendoza are working to put together an Active Shooter Training.

Update on what we are currently doing for newcomers:

Sheila, Yvonne and Cynthia met with Andrea in March to discuss what was currently being offered to new parishioners, in terms of materials. The intention moving forward is to offer a simplified packet, which would include a booklet, directory, annual report; and bumper sticker.

Welcome Gathering:

Major topic of discussion was a Welcoming Celebration, which will be held on Sunday, May 19th, after the 9:00 Masses. This will be an opportunity to gather newcomers, give them an opportunity to meet staff, PPC members and each other. It will be held in Oldershaw Hall, with food and drink provided (like Coffee Cake Sunday).

Announcements will be made and a “save the date” card will be distributed.

The demographic would be to those:

- Who are new to the Parish in the last 3 years
- Who used to be Parishioners and have returned
- Who would like information about the Parish, School, Sacraments

There will be a short “program” – 5 minutes in length, led by Suzanne and Fabiola.

Suggested topics: introductions (Father Tito, some staff, PPC, Finance, Mary Burke Peterson), short history, explanation of our campus AND allow time for Q&A.

We might consider a “Play” table for young ones to color or read (perhaps bring blue bags from Church?).

“Save the Date” Announcements should begin on Palm Sunday. Cynthia will arrange to have the Pulpit and Bulletin Announcements written.

Damian suggested the wording ***You are invited.***

Mary Burke Peterson will handle designing/printing options for a Save the Date card. It was suggested that we use Vista Print as they are inexpensive and do large volume.

We can ask the Greeters to let new people know – “Did you know we’re having a Welcome Sunday on May 19th?”

Suggestion by Yvonne Smith

When Yvonne went to a Parish in Florida, at Announcement time, they asked for new parishioners/visitors to raise their hands. The ushers then handed out a card asking for:

Name

Address

Email address

Phone Number

Yvonne signed the card with her name and mailing address. Subsequently, she was mailed a letter of welcome from that parish. The group then discussed that option, with many positive comments. The suggestion was made to also put this “card” information on the St. Nick’s website. Sheila will ask Yvonne to work on a Welcome Card for St. Nicholas.

We should move the question, “Are there visitors or new parishioners, if so, please raise your hand or stand so that we can welcome you” to the **beginning** of the announcements rather than at the end. Then, during the rest of the announcements, the ushers could hand out a card asking them to fill out name, etc. (like Yvonne received).

New Business

Mary Moring would like talk to PPC about the St. Nick’s gardens at a future meeting.

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN will be discussed at the April PPC Meeting.

The next meeting date will be changed from April 23rd to **April 30th**.

MEETING ADJOURNED – 8:45 P.M.