

**St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council**  
**April 30, 2019**

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

**Absent:** Suzanne Lefevre

**Guest:** Mary Moring

**Opening Prayer:** 7:09 p.m. by Father Tito

**Presentation by Mary Moring**

- Mary presented a thorough update about the grounds at St. Nicholas, the work that she has done and is doing to make the entire campus both beautiful and ecologically sound. Native plants are being planted, watering is kept to a minimum, and the increase in rain over the last several years has caused challenges. Father Tito and Maureen are being very supportive. At the end of her presentation, Betsy thanked Mary on behalf of all for the tremendous time and devotion she has given to this effort for our Parish.

**Approval of February 26 and March 26, 2019 Minutes:** Yvonne proposed a motion to approve, Betsy seconded, approved by all. Betsy noted that obituary photos are now being included in notices from the Parish, when those photos exist or are provided by the families.

**Parish Update – Father Tito**

- Update on Director of Religious Education Position: there were five candidates, three were considered good. The best candidate was asked back for a second interview. He attended the 9:00 English Mass, observed various SCORE classes and gathered informally with some SCORE teachers in the Dining Room. He found the parishioners very inviting and warm. It is hoped that the new DRE will have some transition time with Sr. Christina while she is still her.
- Update on Principal: the School Board (which Father Tito noted as being “excellent”) is very pleased with the candidate, who will be formally announced soon.
- Reception for Sister Christina: she will be blessed on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 Mass, the final day of this year’s SCORE. Pat Tomich has coordinated photos and Annie Guter is making her a stole.
- Holy Week went well. The MC’s did a good job. Ace and John Schuchert did tremendous work to prepare the services.
- There will be a one week Summer Camp, Totus Tuus, on the campus of St. Nicholas in June. The Youth are busy and will have several fundraisers for upcoming retreats.
- The Mission Trip still has some available slots. Our Youth were overextended and had to pull out this year. Perhaps next year’s trip could be planned with youth in mind, maybe in a closer location such as Appalachia. Stock will be sold on two upcoming weekends.

- Virtus is going well. Another training will be scheduled for June. Additional facilitators are needed. The suggestion was made to seek out some of the many retired teachers in the Parish, who would be excellent at such trainings.
- Website: a company has been hired, we've gone with the basic model offered. There will be a drop-down for English or Spanish. No date is set for it to go "live" yet. Alex will be able to add to the website on a regular basis.

## **PPC Reports**

- Welcoming Event on May 19<sup>th</sup>, to be sponsored by the PPC. It is not known how many new parishioners have joined over the last 3 years. Sheila and Yvonne have been working on a packet to be given. Suzanne and Fabiola will give a short presentation about the Parish. Cynthia will be in charge of the food. Mary Jo Huck has offered to help. Announcements will begin on May 5<sup>th</sup> about the event.
- We will change the order of asking "Are there any visitors or new parishioners with us?" – instead of waiting until the end of the Announcements, that will now be asked at the beginning. Soon, there will be a Welcome Card to be distributed by the ushers.
- Mother's Day – The Women's Equality in the Church subcommittee of the Peace and Justice Committee is asking all parishioners to wear white on May 12<sup>th</sup> in support of equality for women in the Church.
- Family Promise – Dan and Michelle Stalilonis have stepped up to lead this effort. Many thanks to them!
- Sheila and Cynthia have joined the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. Julie Berggren is being rotated off the Archdiocesan Women's Committee and Sheila is looking into how we get a replacement representative.
- Update on United Power: there have been significant meetings with Governor Pritzker, the new Evanston Police Chief and others who are very supportive of the group's efforts.
- Sign for Children's Programs: The sign was circulated and final suggestions were made by PPC members. The signs will be placed at entrances to the Church and the information will be on the website. Thanks to Nora!

**Celebration and thanks to Damian Barta for many years of service both to the PPC and to many ministries at St. Nicholas.**

Damian led the Closing Prayer.

The meeting concluded at 9:14 p.m.