

St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council
May 28, 2019

Present: Father Joseph Tito, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Suzanne Lefevre, Arturo Medina, Michael O'Donovan, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith, Juan Jose Velasco

Absent: Fabiola Alfonso, Nora Bondi, Jose Juan Moreno

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

Introduction of new PPC member, Juan Jose Velasco

Approval of April 30th Minutes: Betsy made a motion to accept the minutes, Michael seconded and they were accepted unanimously.

Parish Update - Father Tito

- Update on Director of Religious Education: Jose Chavez Velandia will begin on August 1st. Since his hiring, he has had several meetings with staff at the Parish and is looking forward to his work at St. Nicholas. He will write a bulletin article and will be introduced and welcomed at a Mass in August.
- Update on Principal of Pope John XXIII: Dr. Molly Cinnamon will begin on July 1st. She comes from Faith, Hope and Charity, where she taught Fine Arts. She has worked in both the Catholic and public school systems, and lives with her family in Evanston.
- Father Tito is developing a Quinceanera team to prepare young women for their celebration. Preparation will be based at St. Nick's for our Parish, St. Mary's and St. A's. Youth Ministry will be part of the preparation team.
- Confirmation is being restructured at St. Nicholas. It will be a two year preparation. 7th Grade will be pre-Confirmation; 8th Grade will be Year One and 9th Grade will be Year Two, culminating in the Sacrament of Confirmation. A new curriculum is being developed. The preparation program will be held on Saturdays and Sundays and will emphasize family involvement and service. This is not related to Sister Christina's departure, but is an effort to link Confirmation to Youth Ministry and lifelong religious formation. The new schedule will begin in the year 2020-21.
- (Arturo reported on Youth Ministry camping trip over Memorial Day Weekend at Starved Rock State Park, which was very successful.
- Renew My Church: an update was given about the different waves. Our Grouping currently involves six Parishes: St. Nicholas, St. Mary, St. Athanasius, St. Joan, St. Peter, St. Lambert and Sheil Catholic Center. The process will most likely begin for us in mid-2021. We are already doing things together, with some of the Parishes: Reconciliation Services, Youth Ministry, a successful 32 year merged school, Pope John XXIII. Our Evening Prayer for Victims of Abuse in the Church may join the Taize Prayer at St. Mary. We should continue to meet and develop relationships with the other parishes in our grouping. A note was made that it's important to take care of

what people care about. This care should make the process, which can be challenging, more successful.

Parishioner Tom Lenz is a facilitator for the Archdiocese, helping with the structured formal process that is part of Renew My Church.

PPC Reports

- Welcoming Event on May 19th went very well. Approximately 70 people who had joined St. Nicholas in the last 3 years attended. No newcomers from the 9:00 Spanish Mass came, we need to do a better job to encourage their attendance. Suzanne and Arturo will spearhead another Welcoming Event in September/October. Perhaps there will be two in one week – one on a Sunday after Mass and then an evening event, to give people an option. Ultimately, it would be good to link new parishioners with Ministries they could join by inviting some Heads of Ministries to these events. A suggestion was made that we should encourage evangelization in our own communities, invite friends to attend Mass.
- Welcome Cards are designed and will be printed in-house, in color. Once printed, the cards will be distributed by the ushers, PPC members and greeters. (Tom Carney, Jr. may be willing to be the coordinator of ushers.)
- Lemonade on the Lawn begins on June 23rd, after the outdoor bilingual 9:00 a.m. Mass. There will be no 11:00 Mass that day. Since this will be a Youth-led Mass, the Youth Parents will be in charge of the first Lemonade on the Lawn. One Lemonade on the Lawn should be after the 1:00 Mass. Various groups will be in charge each week, Sheila and Yvonne will organize that.
- Sister Christina will be blessed after the 9:00 Mass on July 21st. Deb Winarski will organize a book of photos and 1-2 line messages from parishioners. These messages should be sent no later than June 16th, to an email address to be determined.
- Meeting with other PPC's. Sheila will invite the other Parish Councils to join our regular meeting on August 27th.
- Announcements were discussed. Marion will be out with surgery and we must prepare for her absence.
- Damian Barta will be blessed at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on June 2nd.

No new business.

Closing Prayer was led by Father Tito.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.