

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

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

**Absent:** Nora Bondi, Arturo Medina

**Opening Prayer:** 7:09 p.m. Prayer for Renew My Church was said.

**Approval of June 25th Minutes:** Yvonne made a motion to accept the minutes, Michael seconded and they were accepted unanimously.

**Parish Update – Father Tito**

- **Rummage Sale Review** – We are almost at \$47,000, considering we had no cars this year and the weather was so hot, it's a great result. Last year, we made \$53,000 with two cars. There were more volunteers at clean up this year. Two trucks came from Goodwill, for the leftover clothing in Oldershaw Hall. (Other charities were there as well.) In the cafeteria, there was less waste at the end. The dumpster was not full. There were younger volunteers and we must continue to search for new people to step up to Leadership positions. Also, a suggestion was made to publicize the idea that young teens can get community service hours by volunteering. We should let this be known at ETHS and other high schools before the end of the school year.
- The bathrooms in the social hall are waiting for architectural designs and we must try to speed up the process.
- **New Staff** - Dr. Molly Cinnamon is at the school and hard at work. She lives in Evanston and will be attending both St. Nicholas and St. Mary churches, so that her presence will be felt. Pope John XXIII will be hiring a part time marketing person. There are several people on the School Board who are good with excellent knowledge of budgets. The budget has been set with attendance of 225. They are below that number now, but hope to increase by the time school begins. Father Tito is working with two Latino families to financially help their children attend the school. Attention should be paid to the new scholarship program offered by the State of Illinois. Donors can earmark Pope John XXIII as a beneficiary of their dollars. Also, a greater effort will be made this year to connect school families with the two parishes. Ideas about "meeting people where they are" are being formulated, particularly in regards to sports. Some ideas: students could come to Mass wearing their uniforms; at the beginning of each sports season, have prayer before games and practices, etc.

- Our new Director of Religious Education, Jose Chavez Velandia will begin on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Father Tito will be moving into Sr. Christina's office and Jose and Juanita will share the front office. The effort this year is to establish youth Religious Education as one program, with two sessions. The Saturday classes will be in Spanish and the Sunday classes in English. The Sunday program will no longer be called SCORE.
- The office staff is working on the directory, as well as the annual report. Maureen and Alex are working with the new website designer (from the company contracted by the Archdiocese). One new thing is that new parishioners will be able to register online. Hopefully, the new website will be launched in October.
- The PPC would like to have a retreat in the Fall. The date suggested was November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Parish Retreat: The last one happened when Friar Bob was here. The PPC is in favor of having one, will talk to parishioners to gauge interest. The date would perhaps be one Saturday during Lent.

## PPC Reports

- Meeting with PPC members from St. Mary's and St. Athanasius will be on August 27<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 6:30 with light food, refreshments and time for getting to know each other. Though our area may not begin Renew My Church for at least another year, it is good to be in conversation with each other and discover what is important at each parish. An agenda will be planned to foster these connections.
- **Welcoming at St. Nick's** – Yvonne reported that it's going very well. About ten welcome cards have been turned or mailed in. So far, the majority have been people who are visiting our parish. Four cards were from people wanting to join the parish. We need a process to determine how to respond to those wanting to become parishioners.
- There will be another October Welcome Gathering, date to be determined. Suzanne will let Sheila know which Sunday works best for her.
- **Lemonade on the Lawn** is going well. The Evanston Black Catholics sponsored on July 28<sup>th</sup>. They had materials for folks, which was appreciated.
- **Sr. Christina** loved her reception on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks to Deb Winarski for her extraordinary work on the photo book.

**Inclusion** – Sheila and David Gayes have agreed to help the Archdiocese with a video and a newspaper article. The emphasis is changing from Inclusion to “Belonging.” Sheila talked about all the strides that St. Nick’s has made in the area of including ALL people and we have many people involved with visible disabilities. Earlier this week David was interviewed by a reporter from Chicago Catholic and Sheila was interviewed by the same reporter.

**Video** – a new video will be made later this summer and David will be interviewed as part of the video. The video team will also come to shoot some footage at St. Nick’s, which will be used in the video. The rector of the seminary will be in the video as will Cardinal Cupich.

Sheila mentioned that our parish has made such great progress with physical accessibility and it’s hard to believe that there was a time when we didn’t have a ramp, accessible washrooms, an elevator in Oldershaw Hall and it’s hard to believe that we haven’t always had a signer at the 9 am Mass.

- Chicago Tribune’s front-page article on July 28<sup>th</sup> was not favorable concerning the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign. Bishop Ron Hicks sent a letter in response, which should be posted on the website.
- **News in the Hispanic community:** Edgar and Celia are helping with Quinceaneras, Martha and Elena with Baptisms. There are a lot of new ushers and greeters. There have been two recent sign-up parties, which were very successful.
- United Power - Yvonne reported that 16 members met with Chicago Mayor Lightfoot and ten of her staff for 45 minutes. It was a very successful meeting. There will be a large meeting with many attendees on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Yvonne encourages others at St. Nicholas to join. Damian Barta was very involved but no longer is because of his move to Wisconsin. United Power meetings are one hour and are well planned. If you are passionate about the issues of affordable housing gun control or mental health, please consider joining.

**Closing Prayer:** included prayers for the two mothers gunned down on Sunday from the organization MASK.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.