

St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council
October 22, 2019
Minutes

Present: Father Joseph Tito, Nora Bondi, Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Suzanne Lefevre, Jose Juan Moreno, Michael O'Donovan, Yvonne Smith, Juan Jose Velasco

Absent: Arturo Medina, Betsy Quinn

Meeting began at 7:09 p.m.

Opening Prayer: All

Approval of September 24th Minutes: Michael made a motion to accept the minutes, Yvonne seconded and they were accepted unanimously.

Parish Update – Father Tito

- **St. Nicholas Festival: Weekend of Dec. 6-8th, 2019.** Sarah and Malachy Cross have stepped up to be Co-Chairs. We are grateful! Nora and Megan Kennedy-Farrell are chairing the Friday night Spaghetti Dinner. Graz will do his St. Nicholas presentation in the Church at 6:45 p.m. Cathy Patterson will lead the Hand Bell Choir from the Cafeteria to the Church. The Kids Choir may be involved as well. Still needed: help selling raffle tickets (Marion will organize the tickets) and help with clean-up on Sunday. Service hours are required for Confirmation this year, so hopefully many young people will sign up. Deb Anton will do greenery sales. We are looking for a St. Nicholas Costume for the weekend.
- Sara Burson is looking for a Co-Chair for the Winter Parish Party. The second meeting of the WPP is tonight. The WPP will always be held on the 4th Saturday in February. The 2020 date is February 22nd.
- **Youth** Holy Fire went well this past weekend. Over 2,500 attended on Friday, October 18th and 5,000 on Saturday. Young people from as far away as Omaha, Nebraska attended. Students in the upper grades at Pope John XXIII School attended on Friday. Four buses of high school teens from 3 parishes, including St. Nick's, took teens on Saturday. James and Jose felt like this year's Holy Fire was the best one to date.
- **Pope John XXIII School – Social Worker** is now here one day a week. She has worked with the 6th Grade, which is a transition year. She is available to individual students on an ad hoc basis, and can be a resource to families. Juan Jose finds the School welcoming to his daughters and they are very happy

here. This weekend, there will be a second collection for the School Scholarship Fund. Attendance is 205, the goal is 250 students.

- **Religious Education** - Jose Chavez is managing the transition to our busy parish and his role as DRE. The change of Confirmation, to high school from 8th grade is a big one, though not initiated by him. Loyola Press is working on a curriculum for high school students. The content for high school students has to be fluid and current. A suggestion was made to invite parents from other parishes that confirm high schoolers to come to one of our parent meetings and witness to their experience. Everyone agreed with that suggestion. Enrollment numbers are down for RE, they are also down at St. Athanasius and St. Joan.

PPC Reports

- **Website:** – Sheila and Yvonne looked at photos for the Welcoming Page of the new website. We need someone from PPC to manage the PPC Website Page, Michael volunteered. Still hoping to go live on November 1st. There will be a training for all the ministries, Michael suggested a collective learning experience where the web page coordinators all spend time practicing how to use the website at the same time.
- **Report on Welcome Event on October 6th, 2019 and also on Next Steps** - A small but mighty group attended the Welcome Event on October 6th; it was a younger crowd than attended the event in May and most were young families. Liturgy and welcoming were what drew them to our parish. How do we continue the welcoming? We discussed various touch points to continue this process. The book **Divine Renovation** calls it radical hospitality. We discussed how to welcome Hispanic families, in a way that would be comfortable and inviting to them. Cynthia volunteered to invite the new parishioners to the St. Nicholas Festival, to begin the process of continuing the connection with newcomers, and other PPC members will continue the effort.
- **Ushers:** Irma and Abelardo have organized the ushers in the Hispanic community. That group does greeting as well. They wear sashes that will change with the Liturgical Season; to match the color the priest wears. This group often has teens take up the collection. Father Tito would like to meet with the ushers from the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. English Masses. A discussion was had about whether it would be more effective to have ministers (ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors) grouped by Mass time, it may keep people more invested and connected to each other. Also, when Welcome Cards are returned to the parish, Yvonne sends them a registration form. Only one has been returned, but most people filling out the cards say that they want to join the parish.

- The All Souls Vigil Mass will be on Friday, November 1st at 7 pm. Some families will build altars in Oldershaw Hall and a celebration of the Day of the Dead will take place on Sunday, November 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m in Oldershaw Hall.
- **Equality for Women in the Church Committee**– This group of approximately 20 people attend a meeting at St. Nicholas once a month on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. They are holding an event after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on October 27th in Oldershaw Hall. Three women will give reflections on three different scripture readings.
- **Renew My Church:** we will be in the last wave, probably toward the end of 2021.
- St. Nicholas is hosting the Interfaith Action of Evanston Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday evening, November 27th. Father Oldershaw will preside. Fr. Tito will be out of town that week. Ace will be the coordinator for St. Nick's.

Today is the Feast of St. John Paul II. During his tenure as Pope, he spoke of the seismic change that would happen in the Third Millennium. We are seeing that change now, as Pope Francis continues the quest to bring Christ to others.

No new business.

Next PPC meeting is November 19th, because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.