

St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council
April 28, 2020 (postponed to May 5)
ZOOM Meeting

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

Absent: Nora Bondi, Arturo Medina, Jose Juan Moreno
Meeting began at 7:10 p.m..

Approval of March 24, 2020 Minutes: Michael made a motion to accept the minutes, Traci seconded and they were accepted unanimously.

Shared Reflection:

Discussion based on the question: "During this Stay at Home time and Social Separation, where have you found God's graces at work?"

Many examples were given:

- Inspirational work by many
- Seeing Father Tito and Deacon Rojas on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, riding through the streets of our parish
- Spirit of meeting people where they are, being more sympathetic and empathetic, learning to be more gentle and figuring out how to work differently
- Huge spirit of generosity when Juan Jose arranged for his company to donate over 2,000 lbs. of food to the Parish – bravo!
- Counting the blessings of house, health and work
- Letting go on a daily basis, trying to maintain momentum
- People willing to have in-depth, life changing conversations.

Father Tito asked how we found the balance between the gifts and the struggles?

- Challenges are different for different age groups. Many experience the world as being narrower.
- The streets are quieter, especially on Ridge Avenue.
- We can learn from what is calling forth from inside of us.
- Much time is spent calming people.
- There is concern about the students who are off the radar, social workers are reaching out.
- Struggle for many working parents, also teaching children.
- Need to listen to others, be supportive.
- Teachers at Pope John XXIII have instituted Wiggle Wednesday.
- Sometimes there are no good decisions, only less bad ones.

Re-open the Church ideas:

- Cardinal Cupich is taking guidance from Governor Pritzker, Mayor Lightfoot and Health Care Professionals. He is being appropriately cautious. More guidance may be coming soon.
- Father Tito is presuming there will be a need for more Masses. Perhaps when we re-open we could have up to 8 Masses each weekend at St. Nicholas.
- The Parish may explore the idea of Live Streaming Mass, once there is an option to have 10+ people in the Church.
- PPC expressed very positive reaction to the Sunday service put on YouTube, created by Ace with cantors, lectors and reflections.

Maybe these new ideas of Liturgy will be something to continue, as over the next year people may still be hesitant to gather in large numbers.

- There needs to be more Stay In The Loop messages that guide people to the website to let parishioners know about these Sunday services as well as other items on the website.

Parish finances are somewhat down, yet Father Tito says that many parishioners have been amazingly generous. The Parish applied for the PPP loan and received several months of payment for staff salaries.

Ace and James are doing a great job of keeping people connected to the Parish.

Rummage Sale:

- No decision has been made, but it is likely that it will not happen in the usual way.
- Father Tito will be meeting with Mary Moring and is hoping to think creatively about this very important Fundraiser. (The goal is \$50,000.)
- Ideas: a virtual Rummage Sale; pushing the date from July to August; do an online fundraiser, with videos of “memories of past Rummage Sales”; pledges to run or bike; have dinner with celebrities – perhaps reach out to various parishioners who may help us with their connections. If anyone on the PPC that would like to attend a meeting to discuss this should let Fr. Tito know.

Welcome and Engagement:

- It would be a good idea to reach out to new parishioners, to help them feel connected.

Closing Prayer – led by Father Tito.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m..