**St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council**

**June 22, 2021**

**Present:** Father Joe Tito**,** Sheila Hebein (Chair), Traci Laffey, Suzanne Lefevre, Jose Juan Moreno, Betsy Quinn, Yvonne Smith

**Absent:** Cynthia Judge

Meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

**Opening Prayer** – Fr. Tito led the prayer.

**Approval of May 25 2021 Minutes**

* Sheila asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes of the May 25, 2021 PPC meeting. Fr. Joe asked that the minutes be corrected for the number of St. Nicholas students enrolled at Pope John XXIII School. The number should be 101.
* Betsy Quinn made motion to accept the Minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Yvonne Smith. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Report from Fr. Tito**

1. Fr. Tito reported on the recent meeting of all the Archdiocesan priests with Cardinal Cupich and the focus of his remarks.
   1. Cardinal reported that he did not feel that the upcoming letter from the USCCB regarding the Eucharist will not focus on withholding communion from politicians but speak to the need for renewed catechesis regarding the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
   2. The temporary suspension of the Sunday Obligation is still in effect. Cardinal Cupich said that parishes should be focusing on “welcoming people back” at this time.
   3. Surveys held during the Zoom meeting revealed that 25% of priests still feel isolated and depressed as a result of the pandemic.
2. Parish Fundraising activities update:
   1. Sarah and Malachy Cross have begun work as chairs of the St. Nick’s Fest scheduled for December.
   2. The Winter Parish Party will be live this year.
   3. There will be no Rummage Sale again this summer.
   4. Kermes will be held in September. There is discussion of broadening this to be a larger event with broader participation within the parish.
3. Update on St. Nick’s participation in the Renew My Church (RMC) process.
   1. An informational meeting regarding RMC will be held in Spanish on June 23. Marco Lopez of the Archdiocesan RMC team will lead the presentation and discussion.
   2. The English session held on June 13 which was led by Mary Burke-Peterson and Tom Lenz was well received. Approximately 75 people attended. The following suggestions were raised:
      1. St. Nicholas parishioners were encouraged to attend a mass that they do not usually attend to learn more about the different mass communities in our community.
      2. The St. Nicholas RMC Team should meet with the PPC and the Finance Council during August to learn more about these groups’ perspectives of the parish and the RMC effort in Evanston.
      3. An all-parish meeting should be held during the process to solicit input and keep people informed.
4. Shannon Ambrose, a St. Mary parishioner, has joined the Young Adult Ministry team. She will be replacing Sam Carlson who is moving to Seattle.
5. Office staff responsibilities have been adjusted. Giselle Rico will take over editing the bulletin from Ana Alda. All office staff will now report directly to Fr. Tito.
6. Jose Chavez, DRE, has been delayed from returning from his vacation in Colombia due to Covid protocols. He is expected back in another week.
7. Fr. Tito thanked Betsy Quinn for her many years of service to the parish as a member of the PPC. He also announced that four new members will be joining the PPC with the July 2021 meeting. They are: Graciela Carmona, Marco Noria, Eliud Ramirez, and Rob Sullivan.

**Report from Sheila Hebein, Chair**

The Reopening Team has submitted its final report to Fr. Tito now that Illinois has returned to Phase 5 and most pandemic restrictions have been lifted. The report recommends:

1. No change to the current mass schedule (English masses on Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 10:15 am; Spanish masses on Sunday at 8:30 and 1 pm) for the balance of the summer.
2. The recent parish surveys revealed that:
   1. Bi-lingual masses are not preferred by both Spanish and English speakers.
   2. There is an open question about whether we need another English mass. Mass attendance has not yet rebounded significantly yet to know whether this might make sense.
   3. Fr. Tito noted that volunteers have stepped forward at the Spanish masses to organize lectors, sacristans, and Eucharistic Ministers. Cynthia Judge is coordinating lectors for the English masses. However, there is a need for someone to take on the role of coordinating and training sacristans for the English masses. Pat Tomich is working to reconnect with altar servers and resume training and encouraging young people to be trained and serve.
3. There will be Lemonade on the Lawn after the Saturday 4:30 and Sunday 10:15 and 1 pm masses. This will be an opportunity to say good-bye to Fr. Tito as he concludes his pastorship of St. Nicholas as of June 30.
4. Sheila will provide a new meeting schedule for the PPC for the next year prior to the July meeting. Meetings will continue to be the 4th Tuesday of the month with exception of November (one week later due to Thanksgiving) and no meeting in December.
5. The PPC thanked Betsy Quinn for her many years of service and presented her with an orchid plant in thanks for her service. Her presence and interest and expertise as a teacher with our youth has been greatly appreciated and will be missed.
6. Finally, all present thanked Fr. Tito again for his 5 years of being our pastor and wished him well as he begins his new assignment at Holy Name Cathedral.

**New Business**

No new business

**Next Meeting**

July 27, 2021

**Closing Prayer** led by Father Tito.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Lefevre