**St. Nicholas Parish Pastoral Council**

* **September 28, 2021**

**Present:** Father Tom Baldonieri , Sheila Hebein, Cynthia Judge, Traci Laffey, Suzanne Lefevre, Jose Juan Moreno, Yvonne Smith, Rob Sullivan – Graciela Carmona

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Members of the Renew My Church Team - Peter Beale-DelVecchio, Edgar Vega, Marta Strada, Eva Sosa, Doreen Morris (also on Finance Council)

**Finance Council:** Marianne Littau, Mary Erickson

**Opening Prayer**: 7:02 pm – Prayer for Renew My Church

Introductions of all took place.

Peter presented slides, which the RMC team had received at their meeting on Sept. 27th.

There were four scenarios presented from the Archdiocese, with the request to pray on them. No decisions have been made. A parish-wide conversation will be held on Tuesday evening, October 12th, in the Pope John XXIII Cafeteria, where parishioners will be encouraged to attend and give their reactions. Each parish will have these conversations in the same week. The information about the scenarios will be go out to all five faith communities this weekend.

St. Nicholas is the largest of the five parishes. None of the parishes have any debt and all have some level of savings. In 3 of the 4 scenarios, St. Nicholas would remain as is, and in the 4th Scenario, we would be grouped with St. Mary’s.

Cardinal Cupich will make the final decision. After the structural decision is made, then the work of discipleship can begin.

A Q&A session followed, along with a good discussion about what lies ahead.

At 8:20, the RMC and Finance Council members departed.

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The regular business of the PPC meeting continued, beginning at 8:23 p.m.

Rob and Graciela were officially welcomed on to the Parish Council.

**Approval of June Minutes:** Yvonne Smith proposed a motion to approve the minutes and Traci seconded. They were unanimously approved.

**Approval of August Minutes:** Yvonne Smith proposed a motion to approve the August meeting, Rob seconded and they were unanimously approved.

**Parish Update – Fr. Tom**

* **Pope John XXIII** – The beginning of the School Year has gone well. Enrollment is very good, exact number not known.
* **Religious Education** has had a slow beginning but is going well. Parents and students come together for Mass (8:30 a.m. Spanish, 10:15 a.m. English) and then the children attend religious ed instruction.
* **UCYM –** The PPC would like to know how many young people are being served, and a report as to what activities they are doing. Perhaps James could come to a PPC meeting. Also, it would be helpful for the whole Parish to learn about this in a bulletin article.

**PPC Reports**

* **Mass Attendance –** The attendance at the 10:15 a.m. has risen dramatically in the last few weeks. It was suggested that an announcement be made, inviting those who may want a less crowded option to attend the 4:30 Mass.
* **Religious Education Issues –** A variety of communication issues has arisen and parents have brought them forward. Some solutions: create a parent liaison from Pope John XXIII to connect with Jose about religious ed, especially in regards to the Sacraments. Parents need more regular communication from Jose. We don’t want to lose young families. The PPC recommends that Jose be made aware of the need for improved communication.
* **Welcoming at St. Nick’s –** Yvonne told Fr. Tom about the way newcomers used to be welcomed. We will institute it again (cards given out by the ushers at Announcement time). Cynthia and Yvonne will make sure the ushers are aware. Also, hands are still being sanitized at the 10:15 Mass. We will announce that this coming weekend (October 3rd) will be the last one where hands will be sanitized by the ushers.)
* **St. Nicholas Festival Update –** It will happen this year! Sarah and Malachy Cross are the Chairs. There will be crafters, the tree sale, the raffle, and food will be sold.

**Closing Prayer –** led by Father Tom.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:20 p.m..