GA PC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 10/13/26

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Attendees: Fr. Joe Connelly (Pastor), Marymartha Heasley, Lourdes Rivera, Jonathan Amos, Cara Barone (via phone), and Debbie Stadt

Absentees: Steve Sims (Trustee), Mike Braun (Deacon), Pat Dolan, Matthew Amos

1. Call to order: 5:15 PM

2. Opening prayer: led by Fr. Joe

3. Input from Parishioners: Concern over an apparent "panhandling" type person after 8:30 mass this past Sunday. Is there a policy to handle such matters? Fr. Joe reported that we do give out gas cards and encourage people to utilize the Food Shelf, but we as a parish do not hand out cash, but if parishioners are inclined to do that, then that is their prerogative. Fr. was aware of the situation and spoke with the person. If you ever feel uncomfortable in a situation like this, simply get one of the maintenance guys to assist.

- **Several laudatory comments were made regarding the success of Lukas's Revelation sessions. He has over 70 people attending, and had to move from Perks to the Youth Room.**

4. Process of reviewing JOC and Faith Formation updates prior to meetings is working out nicely and it was agreed by all to continue with this method. Please see below from Terry, Lukas, and Andy on updates:

- **JOC:**
- Refugee/Immigration…We are helping immigrants when they need help. Dinner at Rons new house on the West side of St Paul next week. Josue recovering from surgery.
- Giving Center…we had 10 people this month with gas vouchers at Holiday in Woodbury. No cost to the parish. In the giving center, we collect for Brittany's Place, the card ministry, Refugee, Santa shop, and Bags/Food for Open Cupboard. We are giving away

winter things & a few school supplies to give away Oct 8th at the PIT event in Cottage Grove Armory

- Loaves & Fishes…we continue to volunteer each month. 6-10 people usually help with serving and helping cooking for over 255-280 people every 2nd Sunday of the month. It may be in transition with leadership. Fr Joe, Parish Adm and Terry are working on this with the leadership group.
- Respect Life/Life Human Dignity…we did a 2nd collection last wrekend snd we want to have periodic meeting. We are doing an Act of Reparation at the Holy hour in October 6th
- Prison Ministry: We have 15 Penpal people who write their incarcerated people and we meet each month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11am. We have a speaker each month. We write 30 cards to local prisoners for their birthdays. We usually get 10-12 people at our monthly meetings. We are meeting at 5pm in October on the 21st with the speaker Fay Connor who developed Twin Cities Prison Ministry
- Creation Care/Food Garden..John Capecchi is coordinating again and is seems to be going well this year with John's leadership this summer. John needs to find a few helpers for him next season.
- Befrienders/Pastoral each month. We are getting 8-10 people at each meeting per month. Our meeting each week with the Saints leading us every month with seeing how wr are doing and the people we work with. Twelve of us meet with befrienders each month in their homes(a total of 30 people are visited by our team. Also, our Caring group.. is the 3rd Thursday by zoom lead by Liz. There is four people in this group. We have a cancer group now that 8-10 people meet. We have ongoing groups at Boulder Ponds & Oak Meadows Senior Living.
- Also, Bounder Ponds men's bible study is happening every other week and 8-10 people are in attendance. It is a sharing group. We have 3 GA befrienders at Boulder who want this. We see over 6 people each week there for communion. The program at Oak Meadows continues to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and sharing group.

- **Faith formation:**
- Revelation Bible Study - officially have 60 people registered. Was so big we moved from GA Perk to Youth Center, downstairs
- Middle/High School - We have merged our Wednesday night program together. Currently, it is majority middle schoolers in attendance, though we still get ~5 high school youth in attendance. Purpose is to help with retention - create an easy way for middle schoolers to move into high school youth ministry. Had 18 middle school and 3 high school in attendance at last youth night. Currently have 23 middle schoolers officially signed up.
- Extreme Faith Camp - We had our parent meeting. 10 different families were in attendance. The room was really positive and excited for camp. Our goal is to get 20-25

middle/high school youth to attend. We will need 5 total adults in attendance for VIRTUS. Currently have 4 confirmed (Andy, myself, + 2 other volunteers). Registration is live as of 10/7/26

- Small Groups - Small Groups are underway. We have 9 small groups active on the website. (13, if you could Terry's different groups, like grief group). According to Group Vitals, we have 61 total people in small groups. Numbers may be inaccurate as not all groups have started. In November we should have be a better sense.
- Family Faith Formation - Had first session on 10/4. We have 23 families and 33 children in the program currently. This includes 12 1st sacraments.

5. Engagement Commission: Cara reiterated that the New Parishioner Brunch is still scheduled for Sunday, November 8th. There were 24 invitations that went out, which included new families and those who were unable to make it 6 months ago.

6. Archbishop's letter of Sections 7 & 8 was tabled until next month

7. Chesterton Academy updates: Fr. Joe convened with the College of Consultors at the Archdiocese, which is composed of 12 priests whose jobs are to advise Archbishop Hebda on matters as such. Having Chesterton come to our campus was passed by a unanimous vote. The second step is now with the Archdiocese Finance Council who will likely return a verdict before Thanksgiving. Once the school resides at Guardian Angels, daily mass will then relocate to the main church to accommodate the increased numbers. Huge cleanup efforts are now underway to clean up the storage area downstairs and items are in the hallway across from the library and "free" for anyone to take.

8. Sanctuary updates: There is a meeting scheduled this Thursday, October 15th to begin finalizing materials needed for the project. Construction is still slated to begin immediately after Easter and into the summer.

9. Staff updates: Careful review of staffing needs are currently being looked at to determine best needs of the Parish.

10. Safety & Security Committee: The Archdiocese is holding its annual Safety Conference on Oct 20 at St. Peter's Church in Mendota. Several of the Safety Committee members will be attending, and the Committee wishes to encourage members of the PPC

to attend as well. The Safety Committee believes that it is important for the PPC to learn about the current safety and security issues facing parishes, schools, etc.

Other additions: No further update on the results of sending out postcards to new residents in the area. We will be apprised as they come in.

- **"Trunk or Treat" will take place in the parking lot October 24th and everyone is encouraged to decorate their vehicles or donate candy to the office if you wish.**
- **November 2nd at 6:00 PM will be a Mass of Remembrance for those persons who have passed away in the past year. Additional candles will be available for $5 each to those people of the deceased that passed beyond this past year.**
- **Check the Bulletin for more upcoming events, such as Turkey Bingo & Cookies and Crumbs.**
- **Blessing of the Animals: There was a good turnout with a variety of critters!**
- **Feast of Guardian Angels was a huge success and enjoyed by all.**
- **Fall Fest: Members felt that it was successful, despite the inclement weather. Meetings are underway to recap how it all went and the profits made.**
- **Collaboration with Our Lady of Guadalupe Church: Terry is in contact with their deacon to determine working together in the future.**
- **Thanksgiving Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Thursday, November 26th. There will be no mass on Friday, the 27th and the office will be closed.**

11. The meeting ended with a Glory Be, led by Fr. Joe

12. Next Meeting: November 10th at 5:15 PM