

## ST. RAPHAEL PASTORAL COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

**Call to Order:** *Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.*

Members Present: Michelle Aldridge, Jane Coburn, Craig Correa, Jim Damron, Mark Dirlam; Teri Dwyer; Joe Feyder; Daniel Flores; Fr. Gallagher; Debbie Hynes; Justin Lizama; Janet Leonard-Walker; Sally McClean; Fr. Salah.

Members Absent: Silvia Abularach; Brian Dekowzan.

#### **Gospel Reading & Opening Prayer: Fr. Michael Salah**

**Approval Of May 20, 2019 Minutes:** Moved for approval by Craig Correa, seconded by Janet Leonard-Walker and unanimously approved.

**Welcome and Orientation for the New Term:** Fr. Salah and Jim welcomed new and returning members and discussed the important role members play as the “eyes and ears” of the parish in support of Fr. Salah’s pastoral role. Jim distributed and reviewed the 2019-2020 roster of members and the meeting dates for this term.

**2019 Parish Picnic:** Jim described the leadership responsibility for the annual parish picnic that falls to the Pastoral Council. Jim, along with Janet Leonard-Walker, Mark Dirlam and Joe Feyder, are meeting with a group of parish leaders who are responsible for various aspects of the picnic. Council members were asked to volunteer for a two-hour shift serving food.

**Pastor’s Report:** Fr. Michael Salah. Fr. Mike reported on the significant investment the parish has made in repairing damages from flooding, a power surge and other events, as well as improving areas that needed upgrading: air conditioning, paving, phone system, roof repair, electrical repairs, etc. Fr. Salah also reported that the 1994 pickup truck that is owned by the parish and used by various ministries is beyond its useful life and will be “retired” and not replaced. Fr. Salah has spoken with the ministry leaders involved and they are seeking alternatives. In terms of parish ministries, Fr. Salah reported that Fr. Morrow will be launching a women’s study and ministry program in response to a felt need on the part of some parishioners. Fr. Salah confirmed that all members of the Pastoral Council had been duly commissioned at one of the masses last weekend. Jim will send the Council roster to Eileen so that she can record the names.

**Parish Perspectives:** Teri Dwyer provided an update on the school. St. Raphael’s School students have scored at very high levels on both reading and math as reported by the Archdiocese of Washington. Current enrollment is near our maximum level, with 211 enrolled in K-12 and another 105 in the nursery school.

Daniel Flores, the Spanish Committee chair and Council member for 2019-2020, reported that the Spanish ministry is thriving, with strong attendance at masses, support for various patronal feasts, and financial support. Jim encouraged each Council member to attend a Spanish Mass so that they could get a feel for the vibrancy of the ministry.

Janet Leonard-Walker raised a question about whether we are doing enough to evangelize Catholics in our midst. Fr. Salah and others talked about evangelization that is already happening through our school, RCIA and other ministries. Nonetheless, we should look to both strengthen existing ministries and explore other opportunities. We will also discuss at the next Pastoral Council meeting the possibility of reviving the Parish Ministry Fair as a means of more fully engaging our fellow parishioners.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**