

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

February 21, 2023

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

President Janet Burns called the meeting to order. Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Janet Burns, John Santangelo, Jeri Anderson, Sean Valentine, Rhonda Varriano, Craig Pfau, Lori Swinney, Katie Graham, Tom Helbling, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Tim Brooke
- **Approval of Minutes:** The council last met in November. Craig Pfau motioned to approve that meeting's minutes. Seconded by Jeri Anderson. Motion passed.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported that the Soup & Pie Supper on Feb. 4 went well. About 225 people attended. Along with the doughnut sales, about \$2800 was taken in.
- **Men's Club:** There will be just one Fish Fry this Lent—Friday, March 31. All parishioners are invited to help with it. There is a planning meeting coming up at 7 pm on Feb. 28. Craig Pfau has agreed to take charge. Some council members suggested that maybe we could get a “celebrity” to help with our fish fry like Sacred Heart does at theirs. Lori Swinney will try to ask local chef Molly Yeh if she might be willing to help.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau said the Knights are again having a meat raffle. They will sell 600 tickets this year instead of 500. The “Into the Breach” program is doing well. There were about twenty-four men there when they met at 6:15 am that morning.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney reported that the Bridge Builders were meeting on Feb. 23. They'll then get the final results from the Dec. 8 Tree of Lights. Their annual spring meeting will be on April 20. As of Nov. 20, the Bridge Builders had \$717,941 in their account.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** Katie Graham reported that the Board of Education will meet the second week of March. Work is being done on the Wellness Policy. There is a meeting for that on Feb. 28. Catholic Schools Week went great! The ND House Bill 1532 passed in the legislature 54 to 40. It establishes a reimbursement program for expenses of students enrolled in non-public schools up to 30% of what the state pays for public school students. This helps parents send their children to their school of choice—such as St. Michael's. Principal Sara Dudley went to Bismarck to testify in favor of this bill. It now goes to the Senate.
- **Finance Council:** Tom Helbling reported on the January Financial Statement as well as the Winter Gala and Giving Hearts Day. Adult envelopes are up \$13,000 this Jan. from last Jan. The Youth Group has been raising funds from Dot's Pretzels sales and they served lunch at the Holiday Craft show held in the gym in Dec. The school received a \$6200 Supply Chain Federal Grant to buy items for school lunches. The school had a leaking pipe in the cafeteria that needed to be fixed. Heating costs for our buildings have increased.

- **Pastor's Report:**

- ◇ Fr. Courtright thanked everyone for all the things people did (cards, Masses, etc.) when his mother passed away.
- ◇ Fr. Courtright then talked about the Eucharistic Revival. He asked council members if, at the end of the three-year revival, parishioners should be given the option to receive Holy Communion on their knees? Council members were very supportive of looking into this idea. Some commented that this is a reverent way of receiving the Eucharist since the Eucharist is so sacred. Others said they fondly remember this from years past. However, there are questions to be discussed: Would there be accessibility for handicapped people? Should there be a kneeler placed in front of the priest? Should there be an altar rail?
- ◇ Fr. Courtright commented that there is an old saying "The Law of Prayer is the Law of Faith." How we worship is how we show our Faith and the other way around.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Winter Gala:** Tom Helbling reported the Gala went well. We netted \$79,692.19. This was about \$2000 less than last year.
- **Giving Hearts Day:** We had 20 matching donors this year plus a large corporate donor (Steffes Corp.). As of 2/15/23, we had taken in \$74,626.53. Last year we took in \$55,162.21. The number of donors was about the same as last year.
- **Sanctuary Renovation:** Fr. Courtright said he hoped we could start painting the Stations of Cross in color this summer.

VI. New Business:

- **Security:** Fr. Courtright reported that because of security concerns, we might be locking up the church earlier in the day. There could be a keypad on both the sacristy door and the courtyard door. (The access code would be available to parishioners—perhaps put in the bulletin.) Originally, a quote was given for \$4000 per door but Fr. Courtright said a parishioner said he could install it for just \$500 per door. Also, we hope to get more lighting around the Pastoral Ctr.
- **Parish Council Election:** We need to come up with candidates to run for two seats on the Parish Council. Jeri Anderson & Tim Brooke are finishing up their terms. (Tim Brooke had only a two-year term because he has the seat that the late Lowell Schweigert originally had.)

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting then adjourned. Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen