

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

March 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, Sean Valentine, Rhonda Varriano, Katie Graham, Craig Pfau, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Jeri Anderson, Tim Brooke, Lori Swinney, Tom Helbling
- **Approval of Minutes:** Craig Pfau motioned to approve the February meeting's minutes. Seconded by Sean Valentine. Minutes approved.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** The Altar Society is scheduled to serve the lunch after the Healing Mass on Sat., March 25. St. Therese's Circle is putting on a Spring Luncheon on Sat., April 22.
- **Men's Club:** No report.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the Fish Fry is coming up on Friday, March 31. He has the KC's and a lot of other parishioners signed up to help with it, but anyone else who wants to volunteer is more than welcome. The "Into the Breach" meetings on Wed. mornings are going well. New people have been attending.
- **Bridge Builders:** The Bridge Builders Banquet will be held Thurs., April 20.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** Katie Graham reported that the Board of Education election is slated for the weekend of April 29-30. Bio's & pictures should be turned in by March 31.
The Youth Group has raised \$470 so far with Dot's Pretzels sales and will continue with that.
Grades 9-12 have about 30 students each week. Director Matt Sampson is doing great! Maybe we'll have a "Teen Mass" sometime.
Jennifer Carlson had two "Littles" groups that teach the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to 3 to 6 year-olds. They meet once a week on Fridays.
Religious Education will put on a Vacation Bible School this summer: tentatively July 24-28.
The 2nd-graders recently has their First Reconciliation with over 40 students. Confirmation & First Communion will be held May 20.
St. Michael's School is doing well. There are just a couple of spots open in pre-K. 2nd grade is full. Two new teachers will be needed for next year. Our long-time kindergarten teacher Mrs. Flanagan is retiring. A contractor is being sought to firm up the gym's ceiling tiles.
The school's Strategic Plan has been finished up.
- **Finance Council:** No report

- **Pastor's Report:**

- ◇ Fr. Courtright talked about the **painting of St. Michael's Stations of the Cross in color**. He's had a few offers to do the painting. A concern is that the stations will need to look good when finished and the cost needs to be reasonable. He showed us a sample of one person's work. Billy Rerick had recently painted the Baby Jesus statue from our Nativity scene. The statue was passed around at the meeting. Council members were very impressed. One member called the style "antiquing". Fr. Courtright said the painter would charge \$3000 per station. He lives in TX but would be here in Grand Forks for the summer. He would paint the stations one-by-one using a corner of the church basement. Fr. Courtright asked what we should do with the cross behind each station? (The cross in the stations themselves would be painted a "wood" color.) A thought was that the cross behind each station could be painted gold to radiate God's divinity.
- ◇ **Diocesan Capital Campaign Fund:** Fr. Courtright said the Diocese is going to have another Diocesan Capital Campaign. The last one was 30 years ago. This campaign would take about 3 months. Money raised would go for things such as:
 - a) Building a retirement home for priests
 - b) Endowment Fund
 - c) Adding to the Priests' Retirement Fund
 - d) Fixing up & maintaining the Maryvale Retreat Ctr. in Valley City recently given to the Diocese by the Presentation SistersFr. Courtright said we'd be doing a combination Diocesan/St. Michael's Capital Campaign.
- ◇ Fr. Courtright commented that the school has some great teachers! Recently the parish paid for our teachers at an all-school teacher/administrator gathering at the Rhombus Guys. Also, as a perk, St. Michael's teachers get free school lunches.
- ◇ Fr. Courtright mentioned that it would be nice if maybe a "Parents' Group" could be organized whereby families might meet once a month for fellowship. He knew of another parish that did this.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Security:** Fr. Courtright reported that locks are being put on two entrance doors: the sacristy door and the courtyard door. A parishioner is doing this for very little cost. Council members commented that it is important for the Greeters to make the church a welcoming & safe environment at Mass. Security measures during Religious Education on Wed. evenings are being considered. Perhaps the entrance door should be locked 10 minutes after classes start. Perhaps volunteers could be recruited to stay at the door while the classes are going on.

VI. New Business:

- **Parish Council Election:** We still need to get people to run for the two seats on the Parish Council that will be vacated by Jeri Anderson & Tim Brooke. The election is scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Board of Education election on the weekend of April 29-30.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned. Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen