

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

April 18, 2023

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The meeting opened and Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer. He hopes to get "Eucharistic Revival" prayer cards for Parish Council members to use.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Janet Burns, Jeri Anderson, Tim Brooke, John Santangelo, Rhonda Varriano, Craig Pfau, Lori Swinney, Tom Helbling, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Sean Valentine, Katie Graham
- **Approval of Minutes:** John Santangelo motioned & Lori Swinney seconded that the March meeting's minutes be approved. Motion carried.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported that the Altar Society will be serving the Bridge Builder's Banquet on April 20. The meal itself will be cooked by Chef Liz of St. Michael's School. Then on Saturday, April 22, St. Therese's Circle will put on a Spring Luncheon in the church basement.
- **Men's Club:** No report.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported that the March 31 Fish Fry was successful! There were plenty of volunteers to help. Close to 380 dinners were served, including the takeouts. (A suggestion was made at the Parish Council meeting that there be two bussing tables next year and a clearer path to bring in the dirty dishes.) Craig Pfau also reported that the KC State Convention is at the end of April in Bismarck. St. Michael's Parish now has eight 4th-degree KC members (These are the members who wear the uniforms.) The KC's might sponsor the cost of painting in color some of the Stations of the Cross or statues on the altar.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney reported that Terry & Sharon Litchy have earned the "Seraphim Award" for their donations to the Bridge Builders. The Annual Dinner & Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20. Chef Liz from the school is donating her time.
As of Feb. 23, the Bridge Builders had \$741,759.05 in their account. Just approved was spending \$23,000 to purchase a new Math Curriculum.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** Katie Graham had sent her report in an email. Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up. The Home & School Association and the School Board are planning some fun treats for the teachers and staff. The board was not scheduled to meet in April but the next meeting would be held May 9.
- **Finance Council:**
 - ◇ The Finance Council had not met earlier that day because the priests had been in Valley City for a "Spring Education Day."
 - ◇ Business manager Tom Helbling had sent out to Parish Council members the March Financial Statement. Tom reported that the Sunday Collection is up about 2.8% over this time last year. Our quarterly check from the Diocesan Foundation was \$6570--up from last year.

- ◇ The Home & School Association Bingo Fundraiser brought in \$2621. Totally, the HSA has brought in \$50,000 this year compared to \$35,000 last year.
- ◇ St. Michael's Parish pays a yearly subsidy to Sacred Heart School that goes to their grant/aid fund for students. We're giving \$36,000 a year now instead of \$30,000 as before. Currently St. Mike's has approximately 46 students attending Sacred Heart. (In 2009, there were only 2 students.)
- ◇ We are no longer getting money from the federal government for school hot lunches because that program which started during Covid has ended.
- ◇ The parish bought a lot of scapulars to distribute to parishioners who wanted them.
- ◇ Parish Council members asked who is on the Finance Council. Fr. Courtright said the two lay officers are Joan Mangino and Tom Rerick. Other Finance Council members are Destin Coles, Mary Deitz, and Laura Thoreson.

- **Pastor's Report:**

- ◇ Fr. Courtright asked that we pray for Deacon Matt Kensock. Father felt it was important to let the parishioners know about the deacon rather than have rumors float around. Some council members commented that mental health issues are more common than we might think in our society. They said that we need to be kind to others and more aware of invisible disabilities.
- ◇ Fr. Courtright said the Easter Vigil Mass went very well. After the Vigil, there was a reception in the church basement for the candidates/catechumens but only their family & friends were invited. Fr. Courtright asked if maybe next year everyone from the parish should be invited and we make that known.
- ◇ Fr. Courtright said he gave permission for alcohol to be had after the Fish Fry. He did not see things getting out of hand.
- ◇ Diocesan Capital Campaign: It's still in the planning stages by the Diocese. If one is held, St. Michael's will do a combination Diocese & Parish Campaign at the same time.
- ◇ Sacred Heart's associate pastor will now be their new pastor. The current pastor Msgr. Mike Foltz is going to serve several smaller parishes.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Painting of the Stations of the Cross:** Fr. Courtright reported that 7 of the 14 stations have already been paid for (@ \$3000 each). He said some people were initially surprised when they first heard about the painting, but he explained to them that both the Parish & Finance Councils had enthusiastically approved this.
- **Security:** The parish is still planning to lock the church doors but access using a keypad code will be available at the sacristy and courtyard doors.
A light still needs to be installed in the school parking lot.

VI. New Business:

- **Parish Council Election:** Candidates are still needed for the upcoming Parish Council election. Bios & photos need to be in by Thurs., April 20. So far, the only candidate for the two open seats is Lori Kraemer.

- **Childcare:** It was mentioned that childcare is available Sunday mornings in the church basement. There is also a big-screen TV down there that can live-stream the Mass. A council member commented that at one of Sacred Heart's Masses, children are taken out for the Liturgy of the Word and they come back for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- **Veils:** A council member mentioned that she had received an invitation for a wedding in a Catholic church in Ohio that lists a dress code. Fr. Courtright than asked that we put an "Update on Veils" on the agenda for our next meeting.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

There being no further business, President Janet Burns closed the meeting.

Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen