

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

May 16, 2023

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Before the meeting began, Michele from the Parish Office took a picture of the Parish Council members for the upcoming parish directory. Janet Burns then opened the meeting and asked John Santangelo to lead the opening prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

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

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported that the Altar Society was serving the lunch following the Confirmation/First Communion Mass that coming Saturday, May 20. The Spring Luncheon held on April 22 went well.
- **Men's Club:** No report.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC Meat Raffle had just ended. The winners will be listed in next week's bulletin. Most of the tickets had been sold—only about 40 short of the total. The meat came from the Andrew Vetter farm in Linton, ND, and was of good quality. The 4th-Degree Knights will be at the upcoming Confirmation Mass. St. Gianna's Home will be celebrating their 20th year and the Knights will be grilling at the celebration. The Knights will also be involved in putting on the St. Michael's Parish Picnic coming up on June 14.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney reported that the Bridge Builders met May 4. They had approved a Math Curriculum for the school that cost \$23,650. The check for this was presented at the annual Bridge Builders Banquet on April 20. Eighty-four people attended the banquet. Chef Liz from the school had donated her services and prepared a wonderful meal, including hors d'oeuvres. At the May meeting, the Bridge Builders also approved a new request for an SEL (Social Emotional Learning) curriculum that will cost approximately \$3300. The Bridge Builders are donating \$200 to the Parish Picnic for SCRIP Card prizes. The Bridge Builders had \$766,240.57 in the Catholic Development Fund as of 3/31/23 as well as \$25,004.02 in their checking account as of 5/4/23. The Bridge Builders organization will turn 50 in 2024. The executive secretary, Diane Jilek, is moving to Bismarck.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** Katie Graham reported there are 51 openings now for new students in pre-K through Grade 5 for next fall. There is a waiting list for some preschool classes. The 5th-grade teacher is staying but a new 2nd-grade teacher is being hired. The kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Flanagan, is retiring. Most of the para-professionals will be returning. Unfortunately, Legislative Bill 1532 was vetoed by Gov. Burgum. This bill would have established a partial reimbursement program for expenses of students in non-public schools. The Youth Group has made \$1500 selling Dot's Pretzels. About 20 to 30 youth attend. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd had a good year. There will be another teacher training for this. Some of the preschoolers from the school might be coming over for this program. School will be done on Thurs., May 25. Vacation Bible School will be held the last part of July into the first week of Aug. It has been a few years since we've had one. Volunteers are still being accepted.
- **Finance Council:** Tom Helbling had sent out the Financial Statement for the month of April to Parish Council members. The Finance Council had met earlier that day. Things are going well. Food costs for the school are more now since a federal hot lunch program has ended. A new bus for the school had just been purchased on 5/16/23. It is brand-new and seats 47 passengers. The old bus was always in the shop for repairs. Tom Helbling reported that Henning Restoration had just completed the refinishing of the front doors of the church. Tom also said he has gotten a bid on the gym ceiling tiles. That project will be completed by mid-Aug. We already have the monies for that.
- **Pastor's Report:** No report because Fr. Courtright was out-of-town (appointment at Mayo Clinic).

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Painting of the Stations of the Cross:** Billy Rerick will start painting them soon. \$21,000 (cost of painting seven of the stations) has already been collected.
- **Security:** The Education Board would like someone to come and look at "Safety" at both the school and Pastoral Ctr. There is now someone watching the door during Religious Ed classes. The Pastoral Ctr. is locked during the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. It was reported that two lights were put up on the light poles in the school parking lot. A light is still needed for the Pastoral Ctr.—maybe put on top of the building. Keypad locks have now been installed on the sacristy and courtyard doors to the church. It was reported that the crucifix that was stolen from the altar of the church some months ago has now been returned. Mentioned at the Parish Council meeting was that maybe the "Greeters" at the Masses could be trained in what to look for concerning security. One member said there is such a thing as "Mental Health First Aid Training."

VI. New Business:

- **Update on Veils:** Fr. Courtright had previously asked that this be put on the agenda, but he wasn't present at this meeting to explain.
- **Parish Picnic:** It will be held at Riverside Park this year, immediately following 5:15 pm Mass at the park. The Knights of Columbus & the Altar Society will help put it on as in previous years. The picnic will also be a farewell celebration for Fr. Grossman. (He actually leaves June 28.) Our new associate pastor, Fr. Darrick Leier, is arriving here in July from Aspen, CO.
- **Eucharistic Revival:** It was brought up that Fr. Courtright had mentioned at the April meeting that he hoped to get "Eucharistic Revival" prayer cards for the Parish Council members to use. Also suggested was that since the Parish Council meets on Tuesdays & that is also the day of the week when St. Michael's has Eucharistic Adoration, maybe members would want to go over to the church for a few minutes of Adoration following our meetings.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Tom Helbling mentioned that listed on the Parish Calendar for the following Tues., May 23, was a BBQ in the church basement to which members of the Parish Council, Finance Council, and Education Board were all invited. The next Parish Council meeting will be held Tues., June 20.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

There being no further business, President Janet Burns closed the meeting.
Jeri Anderson led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen