

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## May 31, 2018

### I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

President Kevin Fee called the meeting to order. Fr. Braun said the opening prayer.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- Fr. Braun thanked Kevin Fee and Loren Liepold for their years of service. He also welcomed the two new council members—Kevin Fruhwirth and Jennifer Modeen. Also welcomed was our visiting seminarian—Jered Grossmann. Everyone then went around the table and introduced themselves.
- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Kevin Fee, Loren Liepold, Bob Kunze, Holly Brown-Borg, Lowell Schweigert, Kevin Boehm, Ed Finch, Jeri Anderson, Peter Bouley, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jennifer Modeen, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** Sheila Schreiner, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Bosch
- **Approval of Minutes:** Lowell Schweigert motioned for approval of the April minutes. Seconded by Jeri Anderson. Motion carried.
- **Housekeeping:** Since the Knights of Columbus have now been meeting over in the Pastoral Center, Fr. Braun asked if they could move their items to a closet over there. Their current closet in the church basement History Room would then be available to others.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported the Altar Society met on May 10. They recently gave the parish \$5000. The ladies plan on making & selling their homemade doughnuts one weekend later on in June.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported the Men's Club had their last meeting of the year on May 7. Officer elections were held and the current officers will remain the same. Kevin is again president. The Men's Club will continue to support the Scouting program and the Youth of our parish. The Scouts (now "Scouts" instead of "Boy Scouts") will look at recruiting girls for Cub Scouts now. The Men's Club has submitted their dates for their fundraising events for next year. They thank everyone who supported their events throughout the past year, including the breakfasts, Month of Money raffle, and the fish fry. This past year the Men's Club provided over \$10,000 for support for our parish and community, including the Scouting Program, St. Mike's School and Youth Programs, as well as support for the Pastoral Ctr. They look forward for another good year with more young people in the Scouting program and more support with youth in the many activities throughout the parish & community.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Ed Finch reported the Knights of Columbus held their last meeting on May 10. Elections were held. They won't meet again until September. Fr. Braun reported their chaplain for next year will probably be our new associate, Fr. Robert Keller.
- **Bridge Builders:** In Kevin Bosh's absence, Fr. Braun reported that the Bridge Builders had their banquet on May 3. Discussed at the banquet was transferring the Bridge Builders' investments to the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) in Fargo. The Bridge Builders board will prepare information to be sent to the members to educate them on the benefits of investing at CDF. Members will vote on this next year.

#### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Jeri Anderson reported that the board had their last meeting of the year but she was unable to attend. The school's 5<sup>th</sup> graders had just graduated on May 31. Fr. Braun reported that the school is still growing—there will be an enrollment of approximately 185 next fall, including the preschool. A council member asked if there was still room at the school for further increases in enrollment in years to come. Fr. Braun said there was. The gymnasium apartment will now be used for the afterschool program. Principal Sara Dudley is doing well. Only two teachers will not be returning in the fall. Jesse Zyskowski is taking about 15 youth to the Steubenville Conference in St. Paul this summer. Fr. Braun is going, also. Vacation Bible School will be held in July. The numbers in religious education are down a bit. Some council members said they thought the numbers would be higher if we went back to confirming students when they were older. However, Fr. Braun did not think Bishop Folda would be changing this.
- **Finance Council:** The Finance Council won't meet until June 5. The parish is doing well. The Sunday offertory is about \$40,000 over the budgeted amount. The school income is doing well, also. About \$50,000 will be spent on repairing the elevator in the school. Council members asked who we work with to repair the elevator. Fr. Braun said Otis Elevator Co. (We might have a contract with them.) However, Kevin Fruhwirth said he will talk to Vern Langowski about maybe checking with Schindler Elevator. We are well ahead of schedule in the Pastoral Ctr. Campaign collections. The Pastoral Ctr. had \$1.4 million in pledges but \$1.8 million in actual expenses. The difference of \$400,000 will be made up by the lake sale income.
- **Pastor's Report:**
  - a) The Parish Volunteer Appreciation Event was held Wed. evening, May 16, in the school courtyard. About 80-90 people attended.
  - b) The Fall Fun Fest committee recently met. They are thinking of changing the date from Nov. 3 to Dec. 1 due to hunting and hockey season openings. Also, the committee is looking at a change of venue. Parish Council members discussed this and were **not** favorable to changing the location from Sacred Heart. For example, some said a place such as Ramada Inn would cost too much, be too small, and not be lit brightly enough. The Fun Fest committee is also thinking of holding a car raffle. Parish Council members said that might be a good idea, but a price of \$100 a ticket would definitely be too high. Some suggested \$50 a ticket, but some thought that was too high. Others felt \$20 a ticket would be good.
  - c) The Community Christmas Eve Dinner held at St. Michael's still needs people to chair it. The strength of the committee planning next year's event needs to be ascertained.
  - d) There are just some minor follow-up projects for the Pastoral Ctr. that are still outstanding.
  - e) The Diocesan Convocation of Leadership will be held in Fargo Nov. 30--Dec. 1. Twelve parishioners and two staff members from St. Mike's are interesting in attending.
  - f) Dynamic Catholic speaker Jonathan Fanning is speaking at Sacred Heart on Sept. 22. St. Michael's has been invited to be a co-host in some capacity.
  - g) **Refurbishing the Sanctuary:** The bishop does not want new carpet put down in the sanctuary. The Diocesan Property Manager, Earl Wilhelm, did a structural review of our sanctuary & deemed it sturdy enough to support heavier marble-like material. We met with Diocesan Consultant Rolf Rohn

on May 15. He is drawing up a proposal for us to consider for a “master plan.” This master plan would include a more substantial altar. The altar we use now for Mass is movable, but the altar is really supposed to be unremovable. Also, the Lexalite on our stained glass windows could be replaced with a new clear Plexiglass that could let in up to 30% more light.

- h) **Loop Field Hearing System:** We don’t want to put in the loop field hearing system until we know what we are doing with the sanctuary. The loop field system costs approximately \$14,000, but that would entail laying down new aisle carpet and we don’t know what that will cost. It was mentioned at the Parish Council meeting that a loop field system is now being installed at Holy Family. However, some council members said there is a lot of new technology being developed for hearing besides the loop field—for example, though smart phones.
- i) The Diocese is encouraging recruitment of candidates for the Permanent Diaconate Program. Applications will be available in Fall/Winter 2019 for the 2020—2025 class. Men must be less than age 60 by Fall 2020. The program encourages and forms men to serve the parish in areas such as:
  - Visit the sick, homebound, poor and marginalized
  - Assist with Bible Study, Adult Education, Holy Hours and prayer, etc.
  - Connect with people who don’t come to the pastor or parish for various reasons
- j) Seminarian Jered Grossmann is beginning a two-month internship at St. Michael’s this summer. He is originally from Harvey, ND.

## V. Old & Current Business

- **General Improvement Projects:**
  - a) The parish property at 520 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St. has been graveled over and can now be parked on. No new accesses will be installed, and it may be a bit chaotic with no clear delineation or established patterns.
  - b) The church sound system has been updated. However, many of the Parish Council members felt it still needed tweaking. The sound from the podium seems better than from the portable microphone.
  - c) The sacristy is being painted. Pete Bouley is making the island to provide storage space and table-top work space.
  - d) The school hallways in the 1950 building are being painted.
- **Donor Recognition Plan** for the Pastoral Center: Nothing new to report. The Finance Council is still looking at it.
- **Electronic Sign:** We’re still trying to get a variance from the City. Fr. Braun had given everything to Pete Haga. He’ll give him a call again. A suggestion was made that Fr. Braun might talk directly to the mayor.

## VI. New Business:

- **Parish Picnic:** Plans for the Parish Picnic to be held Wed., July 11, were discussed. The picnic will again be held at Lincoln Park. (The decision will be made at 3 pm if the weather looks bad & the location needs to be changed back to the church.) The warming house will not be open, but we’ll make sure the water spigot is turned on. We will not have the popcorn machine at the park this year.  
An attachment with the responsibilities of the various organizations was passed out. Each group seems to know what they are doing. Jeannie Strande can’t do the games this year, so the Education Board will take over. The Parish Council is responsible to have people to register the picnickers for the door prizes. Jennifer Modeen offered to help with that. She’ll pick up name tags from the parish office.

- **Parish Council Election Sunday:** Fr. Braun proposed that a change be made to the Parish Council Constitution that the yearly Parish Council election take place on the last Sunday of April instead of the third Sunday of May. This is because people get to be so busy in May. (It is *extremely rare* that Easter is ever on the last Sunday of April.) A copy of the Pastoral Council Constitution & By-Laws was passed out. This proposal will again be brought up at the August meeting and we'll vote on it at the September meeting.
- **Long-Range Planning:** Fr. Braun asked council members what we want the parish to do in the future? Spiritual goals? Should we come up with a long-range plan? If we did do this again, hopefully we'd have a broader base. A council member said we'd probably need a "big issue" to do this. If we did do long-range planning again, should we have a strategic planner come in again (a neutral party or intermediary) or just do it "in-house"? Council members thought the idea of "long-range planning" was something important to think about. Fr. Braun will also talk with the lay officers.

## VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- Fr. Braun again thanked the outgoing council members & welcomed the incoming ones. The meeting was then adjourned & Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.
- Next meeting: August 28 (no meeting in June or July)

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen