

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

June 2, 2020

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

- The Parish Council meeting was held on June 2 by Zoom. President Sheila Schreiner called the meeting to order. Fr. Braun opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Welcome and Roll Call:**

Present: Fr. Braun, Sheila Schreiner, Jennifer Modeen, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jeri Anderson, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Craig Pfau, Dennis Feist, and Mary Ann Whalen

Absent: Jennifer Loraas, Kevin Bosh

- Jennifer Modeen showed everyone her new grandson Max.
- **Approval of Minutes:** The last time the Parish Council met was back in January. The minutes from that meeting had been sent out earlier. Judy Jahnke motioned that the Jan. minutes be approved. Seconded by Jennifer Modeen. Motion carried.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported that the Altar Society had not met. They're not sure if they will hold a fall dinner this year due to the coronavirus. Normally it's held the first week of Oct. The Altar Society will serve a farewell reception for Fr. Keller on Sunday, June 21, after the morning Masses. If the weather is nice, it will be outside in front of the church.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported that the Men's Club wishes to thank everyone who worked at and attended the Fish Fry on Feb. 28. Taken in was \$3935 gross and \$2299 net. The Men's Club had donated \$1325 to St. Anne's Guest Home for an AED machine. Members also helped at the Mission dinner on March 10. (Clam chowder was served.)
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC's have not had meetings recently. There might be a meeting to see if there will be any changes in officers.
- **Bridge Builders:** Fr. Braun reported that Kevin Bosh is finishing up his term on the Bridge Builders board. The board met by Zoom a week ago. New brochures have been prepared. The Bridge Builders has a strong executive secretary—Diane Jilek. The spring banquet was put on hold. They hope to put on a breakfast in the fall. (They did not have one last year.) Sheila Schreiner asked that the Bridge Builders have a representative at the next Parish Council meeting.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** The Education Board had a couple of Zoom meetings. This past spring the school did on-line distance learning and was well organized and prepared. The school began doing this on March 17—the second day of the school lockdown. This was a week ahead of the public schools. The preschool tuition was refunded for three months as well as the after-school program tuition. With the help of the Paycheck Protection Program loan the parish received, the school was able to continue to employ staff. Utilizing kitchen and preschool staff and volunteers, breakfasts and lunches were prepared and delivered daily to over 230 of our students and families through the remainder of the school year.

The school had a nice graduation for the fifth-graders and their parents.

Principal Sara Dudley is now meeting with some of the teachers to plan how things will be done in the fall.

Two new teachers will be hired—replacing a first-grade and a second-grade teacher. We might also be hiring a new teacher if another third-grade section is needed.

The Education Board has a slate of candidates to run. They are considering moving ahead with an election for their board in July sometime?

It was again brought up at the Parish Council meeting that there should be an Education Board representative at each of our meetings.

- **Finance Council:** The Finance Council assisted our business manager in securing an SBA loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. We received a PPP loan for \$270,000 and all staff have continued to work.

As of May 22, St Mike's parishioners had pledged \$166,187 for the God's Gift Appeal—surpassing our goal of \$149,108 by 111% with 26% participation.

Weekly donations for the parish are at 75% of what they normally would be.

The remaining \$180,000 for the sale of the lake property is now due. \$100,000 of this amount is committed to the Men's Club Scholarship Fund.

Budgets are being prepared for the next fiscal year. They need to be tightened. We need to do more for our Fall Stewardship Campaign. We just did a "soft sell" last fall.

- **Pastor's Report:**

1. **Public Masses:** We are grateful to be celebrating them again. The full weekend schedule resumed the weekend of May 9-10. The provisions of social distancing are being observed. Attendance has been light—but is now about 30% to 40% of normal attendance for this time of year. The full weekday schedule resumed May 11: 7:15 am & 5:15 pm Masses with confessions before Mass.

We just started having lectors again the end of May. There will be no extraordinary ministers at this time. It will probably be awhile before distribution of the Precious Blood will be resumed.

We might start having altar servers again in July. We'll continue to have hand sanitizers at the church entrances. Masks have been ordered. We're not going to send people away for not wearing a mask. It was mentioned that the Bishop did not wear a mask when he distributed Communion to the First Communicants.

2. **Live-Streaming:** We will continue to live-stream both daily Masses and all weekend liturgies. However, there will be a point when we begin to curtail live-streaming the full schedule of Masses. When all restrictions are lifted, we want to encourage people to return to worshipping together. We are no longer offering prayers for Spiritual Communion because we want people to come to Mass and receive Communion.

We are continuing to live-stream the rosary at 3 pm through the month of May.

3. **Weddings and Funerals:** These are now opened to the public with respect to safe distancing provisions. Pastoral visits at Altru and Valley Senior Living facilities are currently restricted, as are Masses. Anointing of the Sick is allowed only when a resident is in the active dying stage.

4. **Flocknote/Facebook/YouTube**—have proved invaluable tools for communication during this time of lockdown and social distancing. 1160 signed in to Flocknote. Upwards of 2300 logging in to weekend liturgies between all platforms. Making use of video messaging has been well received—such as Pastor's "Sanctuary Chats."

5. **Adoration:** We have begun all-day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays. Participation

is through an online sign-up at “AdorationPro” from 8 am to 9 pm. This devotion has been received with strong participation through the day.

6. **Buildings and Grounds:** Project lists for repairs and improvements were revisited and updated. These lists became the focus for our maintenance and janitorial staff as many of their routine janitorial tasks were put on hold due to the lockdown.
7. **Parish Drive for St. Joseph’s Food Pantry** conducted on Sunday, May 3. There was a food drop-off in front of the church and a great turnout. 5000 lb. of food was collected as well as an additional \$1200 in monetary donations for St. Joseph’s ministry.
8. **Diocesan Events & Bishop’s Schedule:**
 - a) **Ordinations** to the Priesthood: Postponed to Aug. 8. Three young men to be ordained.
 - b) **Confirmations:** The Bishop cancelled all scheduled Confirmations through May. Delegation granted to Pastors to confirm young people at their discretion.
June 1: St. Michael’s will host Confirmation for the 3rd-grade students with the Bishop to confirm.
June 7: St. Michael’s will host Confirmation for older students at the regular 11 am Sun. Mass and Fr. Braun will confirm.
9. **Summer Parish Picnic:** Tentatively set for Wed., August 5, at Lincoln Park. However, the final decision will be contingent upon further loosening of restrictions.
10. **Priestly Assignments:**
 - a) After two years at St. Michael’s, Fr. Keller has been assigned as Parochial Vicar at Holy Spirit Parish in Fargo effective June 24.
 - b) Deacon Jered Grossman is assigned to St. Michael’s as our new Parochial Vicar, arriving June 24. He will be ordained a priest on Aug. 8. Until then, there will be a *temporary* adjustment to our weekday Mass schedule. There will be no 5:15 pm Mass on Mondays June 29 through Aug. 10. With Bishop Folda’s permission, there will be a Communion Service instead of Mass on Tuesdays at 7:15 am and Wednesdays at 5:15 pm from June 30 through Aug. 11.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Parish Long-Range Planning:**
 - a) Refurbishment of the old school building—we’ve applied for a grant for the windows and trimwork. We’re hoping it will come through.
 - b) The \$22,000 collected at the Winter Gala for the church stained glass windows is being saved for the time being.
 - c) Sanctuary renovations—new flooring and a more substantial altar—also put on hold for now.
- **Sat. pm Mass time in summer:** This is being tabled for a year.

VI. New Business:

- **Coronavirus:** The virus was again discussed. Members said there were a lot of opinions out there and it’s going to take some time to get through this. Some said we shouldn’t relax on masks. Fr. Bran said masks & social distancing regulations are as per the request of the Bishop who is following the directives from the governor’s office. Some said the 6-ft. social distancing wasn’t always being followed. Maybe we should put marks on the floor at the front of the church when we receive communion. The discussion ended with members saying we need to be smart and cautious through these times.
- **Parish Council Elections:** Ordinarily the election of new Parish Council members is held the last Sunday in April. However, because of the virus, this did not happen this year. The terms expiring in June are Sheila Schreiner’s and that of the late Lowell Schweigert (who passed away in Dec.). Fr. Braun suggested

that the election and the term expiration dates of all council members be extended by a year due to the coronavirus. Jennifer Modeen then made a motion that this be done. Seconded by Jeri Anderson. Motion carried. Lowell's spot is still vacant. It was decided to find someone willing to finish out that term. Jennifer Modeen volunteered to take on the task of asking people. Council members said she should first ask Holly Brown-Borg if she were interested. Holly had been the on the council recently but had lost her reelection bid in the spring of 2019. If Holly accepts, we'll consider the appointment granted.

- **George Floyd Death:** A council member asked if the Fargo Diocese was going to issue a statement about the death of George Floyd that had taken place the week before. Fr. Braun said he would ask the Bishop about this at the Chrism Mass on June 3. Fr. Braun was then asked if *he* would be making a statement. He said he could say something in his "Sanctuary Chat"—maybe tying it in with Pro-Life—from conception to natural death. A council member said "Silence is most deafening."

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- In closing, it was mentioned that there was certainly a lot going on—George Floyd's death & riots, Cody Holte's funeral, and the Coronavirus. The next meeting date for the Parish Council was set for Tues., Aug. 18, at 5:30 pm. Sheila Schreiner then asked for a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Modeen motioned to close the meeting. Seconded by Jeri Anderson. Motion carried.
- Fr. Braun mentioned that the month of May had been the Marian month. He then led everyone in praying the Hail Mary.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen