

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## August 16, 2022

### I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer:

Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer. President Janet Burns welcomed everyone.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Janet Burns, Jeri Anderson, John Santangelo, Tim Brooke, Judy Jahnke, Craig Pfau, Tom Helbling, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** Katie Graham, Lori Swinney, Rhonda Varriano, Sean Valentine
- **Approval of Minutes:** A correction was made to the May minutes. Deacon Matt Kensok will be here until December rather than only through the summer. John Santangelo then motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Jeri Anderson. Minutes approved.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported the Altar Society recently made 132 dozen doughnuts and they were all sold by pre-orders (\$8 a dozen). Since the ingredients were donated, all money taken in was profit. The Altar Society will serve the meal for the parish's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-off Celebration. It will take place on Sunday, Oct. 2, after the 11 am Mass.  
Instead of a Fall Dinner, the Altar Society will have a breakfast (brunch) on Sunday, Oct. 16. It will be served from 8:30 am—12:30 pm. Homemade doughnuts will also be sold.
- **Men's Club:** No representative. Fr. Courtright said he'd like to have some sort of recognition for everything the Men's Club has done in past years.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC's will again be in the Potato Bowl Parade on Sept. 10. They will have another membership drive on Sunday, Oct. 23.
- **Bridge Builders:** The Bridge Builders is paying for the pre-kindergarten curriculum that is starting this school year. The cost is a little over \$12,000.

### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** No report.
- **Finance Council:** Business manager Tom Helbling said the Finance Council had met earlier that day. Tom passed out the July financial statement. The new fiscal year just began July 1. The Sunday collection for July is about the same as it was last year. Tom pointed out various items in the report. For example, we recently received a \$500 donation for Faith Formation and the school received a grant for Native American & Black students. Overall, the Income – Expense for July was (\$70,314) (in the red). However, it's normal for July to be in the red. We were in the red the end of this last fiscal year partly because of our Catholic Development Fund investments. However, our cash flow was in the black—primarily because of the Gala. Tom said he will come quarterly to the Parish Council meetings.

- **Pastor's Report:**

Marie Vetter is the new Religious Education Director (kindergarten--8<sup>th</sup> grade).

Matt Samson is the new Youth Coordinator (grades 9-12). He went with eleven of our students this summer to the Steubenville Youth Conference in St. Paul.

Fr. Courtright mentioned that Parish Council member Tim Brooke is now the assistant principal at Sacred Heart School. He also teaches two theology classes there.

The Parish Gala will be Friday, Dec. 2.

Fr. Courtright commented that before Covid it seemed to be more common to have a wake the night before a funeral. Now there aren't as many wakes. Other council members commented that many people are having the funeral at the funeral home or no funeral at all. Fr. Courtright said it's important for a person to let their family know their wishes about their funeral/burial before they die.

Fr. Courtright talked about the "Eucharistic Revival" that the U.S. Catholic Church is promoting over the next few years. Many Catholics no longer believe in the Eucharistic Presence. It needs to be reinstalled as to what the Eucharist is. The diocese is sponsoring the "Redeemed Eucharistic Conference" coming up in Fargo in Sept.

Fr. Courtright mentioned that one of our parishioners who is a member of the ND state legislature wondered if maybe he could hold a "listening session" with parishioners to know what they are thinking. This would help him know what people want him to bring to the legislature as their representative. Some parish council members said people might perceive this as being too political.

## **V. Old & Current Business:**

- **Parish Picnic:** The picnic was held June 15. People felt it turned out well. The weather was windy though. Some said the speaker system wasn't too good—it was hard to hear. Maybe it was because other people kept talking.
- **Picture Directory:** We still need our parishioners to sign up to have their pictures taken—one week in Sept. & two weeks in Nov. (An option is to send in your own picture, also.) Fr. Courtright says it would be very helpful to him in putting names to faces. Those participating will get a free directory and a free 8"x10" photo.

## **VI. New Business:**

- **Altar Servers:** There is a shortage of altar servers for our Sunday Masses. Fr. Courtright would like to recruit more. Maybe something could be put in the bulletin or an announcement made or recruit at the school. Also, we need someone to help teach the servers. Craig Pfau said maybe he & Dale Bergman could help with that. Fr. Courtright said he thought it was most successful to talk to potential servers one on one. However, sometimes children are interested but their parents just don't bring them to Sunday Mass. It was mentioned that just last week servers in the Diocese attended a Red Hawks baseball game in Fargo. Maybe something could be done for servers locally, such as a pizza party.

- **St. Michael's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Our parish was established in 1872—150 years ago. The feast day of our patron saint, St. Michael the Archangel, is Thursday, Sept. 29, but we'll start our *kick-off celebration* on Sunday, Oct. 2. We'll have a special Mass at 11 am and a meal afterwards. We hope to have Bishop Folda and maybe the new bishop in Crookston join us. We hope to celebrate our anniversary over a period of time, not just on that one Sunday. Maybe we can tie it in with the Eucharistic Revival.
- **Kneeler at Communion:** Fr. Courtright would like people to have the option to kneel when receiving Communion. Maybe there could be a kneeler on each side when people come up for Communion. A number of Parish Council members were in favor of making this option available.
- A council member asked when the Precious Blood will again be offered to communicants. It's been noticed while on vacation this summer and attending other churches that it's being offered in some places. Also, a member asked when people will go back to shaking hands again. Since Covid, a lot of people are afraid of doing this. In some parishes, people seem to shake hands during the Sign of Peace more than at others.

## **VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Fr. Courtright led the closing prayer.

The next meeting will be on Sept. 20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen