

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

September 21, 2023

I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The meeting opened and Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer.

Fr. started the meeting with the Parish Council watching the video regarding the upcoming diocesan campaign. The video and presentation on the upcoming diocesan campaign was shown to the Finance Council and some Parish Council members on September 19, 2023. There was discussion and this is tabled until a meeting in the future.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Janet Burns, Katie Graham, Tom Helbling, Craig Knutson, Laurie Kramer, John Santangelo, Lori Swinney, Sean Valentine, Rhonda Varriano
- **Absent:** Mary Ann Whalen
- **Approval of Minutes:** Lori Swinney motioned, and Craig Pfau seconded the June minutes be approved. Motion carried.

III.

- **Altar Society:** Janet read a message from Mary Ann for an update on the Altar Society. The Altar Society ladies put on supper for the Catechist Training on August 29th. New tablecloths were also purchased for the round tables in the church basement, they are on the tables now. Coming up is our Fall Breakfast and Bazaar on Sunday October 1st. Serving begins at 8:30am and ends at 12:30pm. The winners of the raffle will be drawn at 12 noon. Baked goods are needed for the bake sale that morning as well as people to work at the breakfast.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau updated us on Msgr. Pilon's health. He is back home after recovering from surgery.

- The Delta Drive and Membership Drive will be on the 11th and 12th of November. KCs were busy cooking hamburgers for the Special Olympics competition in Grand Forks. They also presented the colors at the opening ceremony.
- Nate Bertram will have his “Santa on Darwin” mailbox and lighting display again this year. He will hang around 100,000 lights on his home and property. Last year Nate answered around 600 letters he personally wrote by hand and sent to each child who left a letter. The KC’s will be helping Nate this year to support and help put the display of lights up and to help answer the letters of each child.
- The KC’s will also be helping at the Fall Breakfast and Bazaar by cooking eggs, sausage and pancakes.
- The KC’s also took their BBQ skills to the St. Gianna Home in Warsaw with serving burgers and brats to the residents and staff.
- **Bridge Builders:** Lori Swinney reported that Marie Vetter has been appointed the new executive secretary for the Bridge Builders. As of 6/30/23 there is \$792,119 in endowments and cash in the bank. \$9800 is left over in the budget. Sara Dudley has a list of something to use for the next allocation of funds before the next distribution of funds.
 - The tree of lights will be lit on December 8th, 2023. The Bridge Builders will have a professional come and hang the lights on the tree.
 - December 3rd, 2023 is Bridge Builders Sunday. There will be members of the Bridge Builders talking from the podium that weekend and work for that weekend is in the planning stages.
 - Bridge Builders will donate \$1,000 in tickets to the gala for the school employees.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** Katie Graham stated that the Board of Education had met two weeks ago.
 - Matthew Samson told the board that the youth trip to Stubenville was successful. There were 10 youths that took the trip. The youth group has also raised \$1500 profit from the sales of Dots Pretzels. Due to the success of this the group will be selling Dots Pretzels again this year for a fundraiser. 21 youth have signed up for youth group this year. 30+ students were in attendance last night on the 20th. Matthew's theme this year is "Your Story". How you walk with Jesus.
 - Jennifer Carlson has three classes for the Catechesis of the Good Shepard. Rose Kramer has completed the first part of this training to be able to assist with the teaching. This is its own program and not part of RE programming.
 - Security has been increased at the church and work will begin soon for the Pastoral Center and the School.
 - RE-70 children have pre-registered, and Katie will have an accurate enrollment number at the next Parish Council meeting. The 13th of September was the first night of RE and the year began with a mass. The Board of Education served snacks after the mass. The first night of classes began on September 20th. The security has been increased for all children funneling in and out of one door. The doors are open at 6:15pm and lock at 6:45pm. There will be someone at the door to let anyone who is late in.
 - The school has 193 children registered this year. This is up 10 students from last year. There are 2 openings left for pre-school. Meaghan Flanagan is the Advancement Assistant to help Sarah Dudley to coordinate fund raising.
 - Next month there will be a small committee meeting. The large meeting of the Board of Education will be every other month.
- **Finance Council:** The Finance Council met on the 19th of September.

- The envelope given for the month of August was down \$25,000; however, it was up \$20,000 for the month of July.
- There was a \$64,000 check donated to St. Michael's from the Karen Gallagher estate. Half of the money will go to the sanctuary for improvement and repair. The other half will go to the main budget.
- Income is higher than last year. Tuition is still coming in and some of the money towards the Stations improvements are still coming in.
- The new missalettes have been purchased for the next liturgy year.
- School repairs were done. New carpet and tile were installed in the Pre-K room. Electrical work was also done at the school.

- **Pastor's Report:**

- Bishop Folda will be at the 11am mass on September 24th to bless the renovated Stations of the Cross.
- This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival, and the national meeting will be held in Indianapolis, IN in July 2024. The 4 corners of the United States will meet in Indianapolis. Lake Itasca will be carrying the blessed sacrament for our corner of the United States to Indianapolis. There will be priests, volunteers and diocesan speakers at the revival.
- Fr. Brian Kujawa from the Crookston Diocese has a podcast on Spotify that is on once a week.

V. Old and Current Business:

- None

VI. New Business:

- The Board of Education will be more visible at events by wearing name tags.
- Sean Valentine was nominated and approved as the new Vice President of the Parish Council.

- Phil and Laurie Kramer are hosting a reception to learn more about our upcoming campaign. Bishop Folda will be attending this reception. The name of the campaign is LIVING OUR FAITH, BUILDING OUR FUTURE. The reception will be held on October 24th, 2023, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Pledges will be taken during the reception.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet C Burns