

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

September 20, 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, Rhonda Varriano, Katie Graham, Craig Pfau, Sean Valentine, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Tim Brooke, Judy Jahnke, Lori Swinney
- **Approval of Minutes:** Jeri Anderson motioned that the August minutes be approved. Seconded by John Santangelo. Motion passed.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** The ladies will be putting on a meal on Sunday, Oct. 2, following the 11 am Mass for the kickoff celebration for our Parish's 150th anniversary. Pulled pork sandwiches will be served. Then, two weeks later on Sunday, Oct. 16, the Altar Society will put on a Fall Breakfast. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, & sausage will be served. They are thinking of having the cost of the breakfast as a freewill offering. Usually that seems to work out well.
- **Men's Club:** The Knights of Columbus are taking over most of the duties formerly handled by the Men's Club.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the KC's recently had their Sept. meeting. They helped with the Special Olympics the previous weekend. They will be helping the Altar Society with the 150th anniversary meal. The KC's are again doing Coats for Kids. They will buy 40 coats and give them to Principal Dudley at the school to distribute to needy kids. They are also sponsoring the Rosary Rally on Sat., Oct. 15, at 12 noon downtown in the Town Square. The KC's & Deacon John Bredemeier want to promote "Into The Breach" – an 8-part video series about Men's Spirituality. Parish Council members watched a few minutes of it at the meeting and felt it would be worthwhile.
- **Bridge Builders:** Fr. Courtright reported he's meeting with executive secretary Diane Jilek. The Bridge Builders have a new president: Jim Krause. The Bridge Builders were scheduled to meet that coming Thursday.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** Katie Graham reported that the Board of Education met two weeks earlier. The school now has an enrollment of 188 (including preschool). This is up about 15 students from last year. Another section of preschool was added. There are now two kindergarten sections, two first grades, two second grades, & large third, fourth, & fifth grade sections. All the teachers were hired before the school year began. There is a good afterschool program. Principal Dudley has been doing an excellent job. School parents are required to have commitment points/hours. Janet Burns asked if parents could get hours by working at the Gala. Yes, they can. It was mentioned that the Home & School Association (HSA) met before the Board of Ed meeting. They had a good turnout. (It has been down during Covid.)

- **Finance Council:** Fr. Courtright reported that last year did well—we received over \$50,000 from Giving Hearts Day. We also took in money from the Gala. We’re looking forward to this year. We’re working on a corporate sponsor for Giving Hearts Day.
- **Pastor’s Report:**
 - ◊ Fr. Courtright mentioned that he had been on KNOX Radio that day.
 - ◊ He said we need to get more people to listen to Real Presence Radio for evangelization. Catholics need to tell their stories to evangelize about how they came to Jesus.
 - ◊ A council member asked if there were any initiatives to get people back to church. Fr. Courtright said that is why we’re having a Eucharistic Revival. The Redeemed Eucharistic Conference was coming up in Fargo that coming weekend.
 - ◊ Fr. Courtright reported that twice a year the school principals & priests of the Diocese get together for a meeting. He & Principal Dudley had just attended one that day.
 - ◊ Many of our school’s children then go on to attend school at Sacred Heart.
 - ◊ Fr. Courtright mentioned that statistics say that 0.01% of non-married clergy have been involved in child sexual abuse compared to 0.09% of married clergy. That’s nine times more for married clergy. Part of the reason could be that a lot of abuse occurs in families and children are more likely to be living in households of married clergy. Still, abuse from priests *should be zero* in the first place!
 - ◊ Fr. Courtright wants to promote the upcoming Rosary Rally. He will put it in the bulletins & announce it at Mass.
 - ◊ The Precious Blood will be available to communicants soon.
 - ◊ It’s encouraged to shake hands at the Sign of Peace at Mass.
 - ◊ A council member at the meeting suggested that Father should put his Pastor’s Notes in the bulletin.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Picture Directory:** So far, only about 10% of the 1500+ families in the parish have signed up to have their pictures taken for the church directory. However, only about 30% (maybe 25% now) attend Sunday Mass weekly. The question was asked as to how many families were in our 2014 directory?
- **150th Anniversary Celebration:** The kickoff event will be Sunday, Oct. 2, but the Parish will actually be celebrating over 5 years. Perhaps the “crowning glory” will be the repainting of the church. Father is still looking for names of people to be on the Sanctuary Rejuvenation Committee. He wants to listen to others to find out what the people want in rejuvenating the Sanctuary.

VI. New Business:

- The **Gala** is coming up on Friday, Dec. 2. The Gala planning committee has been meeting.

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 Oct. 18.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen