

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## October 17, 2023

### I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer

President Janet Burns called the meeting to order.

Fr. Courtright led the opening prayer.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Courtright, Fr. Leier, Janet Burns, Sean Valentine, Laurie Kraemer, Katie Graham, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** John Santangelo, Rhonda Varriano, Craig Knutson, Craig Pfau, Lori Swinney, Tom Helbling
- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the Sept. meeting prepared by Janet Burns were approved.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported the Altar Society served approximately 275 at their Fall Breakfast on Oct. 1. This was down somewhat from last year and the profit made was about \$500 less. There was plenty of help this year.  
The Altar Society is having trouble recruiting new officers.
- **Men's Club:** No report.
- **Knights of Columbus:** The KC Delta Drive for new members is coming up the weekend of Nov. 11-12.
- **Bridge Builders:** They haven't met yet.

### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Board of Education:** Katie Graham reported the Board of Education met Oct. 10. On Oct. 11 they had a "Meet & Greet" with the teachers. On Thurs., Oct. 19, board members & school staff were going to Fargo for a conference at Shanley for a Professional Development Day. The Diocese's "transgender policy" might be discussed. The HSA "*Harvest Hoedown*" was scheduled for Oct. 18. The kids come in their Halloween costumes for this. Fr. Courtright asked if perhaps these things could be listed on the staff calendar because he didn't know about it and now had another commitment. Katie Graham said events like this are more school-centered so they can control who can come in. The school is also having a SCRIP Bingo coming up right before Veteran's Day.
- **Finance Council:** Tom Helbling had earlier emailed the Sept. Financial Statement along with a report. Janet Burns went over some of the highlights including:
  - Adult Envelopes totaled \$73,865, up about \$2600 from last Sept.
  - The quarterly distribution from St. Michael's Foundation was \$7046.
  - The Gain/Loss on Endowments was a loss of \$60,555 this past quarter (but less of a loss than what it was a year ago).
  - Quarterly distributions for the O'Connor Trust & Scholarship Incomes totaled \$13,141.
  - Expenses for the school were up a bit due to teacher salary increases, food costs & the replacement of the kitchen dishwasher.
  - September's Income-Expense was \$58,913—far better than what it was last Sept.

- **Pastor's Report:**

- Fr. Courtright said he planned to be at the Gala this year. (He missed it the last two years because of Covid.)

The Bishop can't make it this year but one of the auction items will again be a private dinner hosted by the Bishop. The "Reverse Auction" this year will go towards shingling of the sanctuary. There will be a new emcee this year. (Andy Schneider did it the last few years.)

- Fr. Courtright mentioned that we need more vocations to the priesthood.
- Fr. Courtright talked about the Diocesan Campaign to be launched in January. The last one the Diocese had was held 30 years ago. The Diocese is raising money for a retirement home for the priests and for the Maryvale Retreat Center. There are two options:

**Option #1** The Diocese pays the fundraising company to run it. Our goal would be \$1.2 million.

70% would go to the Diocese and the other 30% would go to the parish until our goal is reached.

Then we get 70% & the Diocese 30%. Pledges would be over four years.

**Option #2** This would be a \$2 or \$3 million effort. The parish would hire someone to run it. We would guarantee the Diocese \$858,00 and we then get to keep the rest.

Fr. Courtright & some members of the Council were leaning towards Option 1. It was felt that our parish doesn't have a lot of big donors. It was mentioned that some people are still upset that the lake property was sold. Someone asked how many families we have in the parish. It is approx. 1400. Phil & Laurie Kraemer have graciously volunteered to host at their home a presentation by the fundraising company. It will be held Tues., Oct. 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. It will be low-key & no pledges will be taken that evening.

- It was mentioned that some plaster recently fell off from the ceiling under the choir loft—2<sup>nd</sup> pew from the back on the right.

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

- **Gala:** Janet Burns reported on preparations for our Gala to be held Nov. 10. Pitches from the pulpit will be made the weekend of Oct. 21-22. People are still needed to sell tickets to the Gala after the Masses. Besides a Cash Raffle, School Tuition Raffle tickets are also being sold. The winner will get a free year's tuition for a child at St. Michael's School. The "Reverse Auction" will be done a little differently this year. People can write down their bids instead of raising hands. Next year it's hoped to have the Silent Auction online, also.

## **VI. New Business:**

- **Capital Campaign:** See the Pastor's Notes.

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

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 21.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Fr. Leier said the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen