

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

January 14, 2020

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

- President Sheila Schreiner called the meeting to order. Fr. Braun opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Sheila Schreiner, Kevin Fruhwirth, Dennis Feist, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Kevin Bosh, Craig Pfau, Tom Helbling, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Jennifer Modeen, Jeri Anderson, Jennifer Loraas
- **Approval of Minutes:** The last meeting's minutes were discussed. A clarification was made that when the lake property sale is finally completed, an additional \$100,000 will be invested in the Men's Club Scholarship Fund. Kevin Fruhwirth then motioned that the minutes be approved. Seconded by Judy Jahnke. Motion carried.
- **Welcome / Finance Report:** St. Michael's new Business Manager, Tom Helbling, introduced himself. He then gave the financial report. Council members had received a copy of the parish's Statement of Financial Activities as of Dec. 31, 2019. Tom said our income was ahead YTD from last year. Also, the school is looking good. Textbooks will be depreciated over 5 to 6 years. A Council member asked if the St. Michael's Foundation still exists. The answer is yes, but it's not being heavily promoted at this time. There is approximately \$300,000 in the foundation. The parish just uses the interest from it for operating expenses.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported the Altar Society is getting ready for the Soup & Pie Supper on Saturday, Feb. 1. It will be served from 3 to 6:30 pm. The Altar Society also bought one of the two new Angel statues that were on the back Altar at Christmas.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported that the Men's Club met in Dec. & Jan. They are getting ready for the Fish Fry on Feb. 28. They are still hoping to get new members. The Men's Club has donated \$500 to the Boy Scouts & \$500 to our Youth going to the March for Life & \$1000 to the school for electronic blackboards.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported the Brian LaPlante family was awarded "Family of the Month." The Knights sponsored a Christmas poster contest and will put on a Chili Feed on Jan. 22 during the "9 Days for Life." The KC's gave \$500 towards the March for Life trip. The meat raffle is coming up in Feb. and the KC's are also sponsoring a free-throw contest. They still hope to get a membership drive going. The state convention will be in April.
- **Bridge Builders:** Kevin Bosh reported the Bridge Builders met on Dec. 5. The Tree of Lights brought in \$2100. The foundation has a principal of \$742,723 of which only the interest is used. The Bridge Builders has \$17,000 in their checking account. There are several new people on the Bridge Builders board. The board will meet on Jan. 16 to discuss having a banquet this spring.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Fr. Braun reported that the Education Board had met the week before. The school is getting ready for accreditation in March. There are 190 students (preschool through 5th grade). A new janitor for the school will be hired. A large number of students in Religious Education (thirteen) are older-than-normal for receiving the sacraments.
- **Pastor's Report:** Fr. Braun gave out to the members a draft of his "State of the Parish" letter to be mailed out to parishioners in a few days. It talked about a number of things including the "spiritual health" of the parish and the current & long-term needs of the buildings & grounds.

1. **Spiritual Health:**

- a. We need to ask God to guide our hearts back to Him in this age of increasing apostasy.
- b. The Church is wounded and we need to confront & make amends but not abandon the Church because of the sins of its clergy.
- c. We need more lay participation in Liturgical Ministries such as Music Ministers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters, & Altar Servers. Help is especially needed at the Sat. 5 pm & Sun. 11 am & 5 pm Masses. Training sessions will be coming up in Feb.
- d. We need more people of faith & courage to pass on the faith to young people in our religious education program. We are most grateful to those who do help.
- e. We have an exceptional Catholic school seeking full accreditation this spring. Our school has been growing consistently for the past six years.
- f. We are pleased that so many have signed up on Flocknote & ask that more do so. An example of its usefulness was during the Dec. 29 snowstorm when a message could be sent out by Flocknote about Mass cancellations.
- g. Our service organizations (Altar Society, Men's Club, KC's, etc.) are struggling. We need people to step up to the plate.

2. **Pastoral Center Update:** The Capital Campaign pledges are still coming in through Dec. 2020. Our loan to the Diocese will be paid off in May.

3. **School Refurbishment:** A priority is refurbishing the original 1906 St. Michael's School building. This will involve the installation of new energy-efficient windows, electrical circuitry improvements, a refurbishment of the trim work, and a fire suppression sprinkling system enabling the school to make use of the 4th floor on a regular basis.

4. **Church Refurbishment Projects:**

- a. Stained Glass Windows: \$22,000 was donated towards this future project at the "Reverse Auction" at the recent Winter Gala. The total cost would be about \$100,000. The Lexan Polycarbonate covering on the stained glass would be replaced to increase the luminosity. Also, the water-damaged bottom sash of the rose balcony window would be repaired.
- b. Loop Field Hearing System & new aisle carpeting: \$12,500 was donated towards this project at the 2017 Fall Funfest. However, this would also involve replacing the sanctuary carpeting.
- c. If the sanctuary carpet were to be replaced, the Bishop has requested it be replaced with a more dignified & durable material such as a hardwood or Marbelite flooring and also that a more substantial immovable altar be installed.

5. **Finish renovating the third floor of the Pastoral Ctr.:** This would allow the youth group to move from the 4th floor of the original school building, providing needed space for the school's expansion into that area.

6. Other projects—which we hope to accomplish through our annual maintenance budget. These include installing lighting in the east N. 5th St. parking lot, spot tuck-pointing areas of the church & school, and landscaping improvements to flower beds on the east side of the 1950 school.

V. Old & Current Business:

- Parish Long-Range Planning: already discussed.
- Winter Gala: This was the second year holding it at the Alerus and it was a success. It took in \$134,000 gross (including the car raffle) Proceeds are split between the parish & the school. Expenses were about the same as last year. The “Reverse Auction” raised about \$22,000 for refurbishing the stained-glass windows. However some council members said more would have been raised if the bidding hadn’t stopped at \$100. They were sitting at tables where people would have bid \$50 or \$25 if given the chance.
- Music at Mass: Nothing new.
- Ad Orientem Mass: Now being offered every Saturday at 7:15 am.
- New basketball/soccer balls for the school—This should be brought up to the Education Board.
- Christmas Eve Dinner: After 47 years, this might be falling apart because leadership cannot be found to take over from the departing leaders. (There are plenty of volunteers on the day of the dinner so that’s not the problem.) The Committee needs to be put together *now*—next fall is too late. A question was asked as to how much funds are in the account for the Christmas Eve Dinner. It was also mentioned that perhaps there are too many take-out meals.
- Some Council members mentioned that they’ve seen a crack on the east wall inside the church above the doorway going towards the stairs going out to the courtyard entrance. Is it in the wall or just the paint?
- Fr. McDermott will cover when Fr. Braun is gone for the March for Life Jan. 19-27 and Fr. Keller is at a family reunion Jan. 22-27.

VI. New Business:

- Lowell Schweigert, Vice-President of the Parish Council, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 29. Council members gave money for a cash donation from the Parish Council as a whole in Lowell’s memory. Kevin Fruhwirth nominated Jennifer Modeen to be the new Vice-President. Seconded by Dennis Feist. Approved by the Council that Jennifer Modeen is the new Vice-President. (Jennifer was not present at the meeting.)
- A Council member suggested that the Saturday pm Mass be changed to a later time just for the summer months (between Memorial Day and Labor Day). Perhaps it could start at 6 pm? This item will be put on next month’s agenda.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Dennis Feist motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Kevin Bosh. Motion carried and the meeting closed.
- Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen