

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

November 19, 2019

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

- **Welcome & Roll Call:**
Present: Fr. Braun, Sheila Schreiner, Lowell Schweigert, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jennifer Modeen, Jeri Anderson, Dennis Feist, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Craig Pfau, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Jennifer Loraas, Kevin Bosh
- **Approval of Minutes:** Lowell Schweigert motioned that the Oct. 22 minutes be approved. Seconded by Jeri Anderson. Motion carried.
- **Change of date for January meeting:** The January Parish Council meeting was changed from Jan. 21 to Jan. 14. This was done because Fr. Braun is going with our parish youth to the March for Life in Wash., DC.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported the Fall Dinner did well, but next year we will start serving at 10:30 am. Altar Society ladies served the reception after the Mass of Remembrance on Nov. 4. Church cleaning is coming up in Dec. to get the church ready for Christmas.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported that the Men's Club hadn't met since May, but they were having a meeting on Dec. 2. The Men's Club made a donation of \$250 to the Winter Gala. They plan to donate \$500 to the Boy Scouts and \$500 to the Cub Scouts. Right now the main mission of the Men's Club is the Scouts & the Youth. The Cub Scouts now have 27 members. Dues have gone up from \$27 to \$60. The Boy Scouts will have two troops—one for boys & one for girls. The Men's Club is planning two Fish Fries this Lent—the Friday after Ash Wednesday & the Friday before Palm Sunday.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported they hope to have a membership drive. They will be putting on a chili feed on Jan. 22. The KC's are helping sponsor students for the March for Life. They have collected coats for the needy but still need to distribute them.
- **Bridge Builders:** The funds are now invested with the Catholic Development Fund. A new executive secretary has been hired. Her name is Diane Jilek. The Bridge Builders meet next on Dec. 5 and a new president will be elected. The board needs more members. There have been three resignations. It's felt that the Bridge Builders' organization needs to rebuild and create an incentive program for people to give. The "Tree of Lights" honoring memorials for loved ones will take place at the Dec. 5 School Mass.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Fr. Braun reported that the Education Board had met the previous week. He said Principal Sara Dudley is on target for getting the school accredited. She's ready to put together a second 5-year strategic plan. The school has 189 students.

- **Finance Council:** Fr. Braun reported he's pleased with our new business manager Tom Helbling. Tom will be going to Fargo on Nov. 21 to become familiar with the software the parish uses. He'll be dealing with all the parish buildings & grounds.
A Statement of Activities as of Oct. 31 was passed out to the Parish Council members. We're down about \$6000 right now compared to last year, but our budget is greater.
Since Feb. 2019, we've been taking in about \$7000 a month in pledge payments from the Pastoral Ctr. Campaign. We have \$175,000 left in outstanding pledges. We borrowed close to \$800,000.
Another lake lot was sold in the past month so \$180,000 is still owed. Of the \$1.1 million from the lake property sale, \$200,000 is committed to the Men's Club Scholarship Fund. \$100,000 has already been invested, and the second \$100,000 will be invested when the lake property sale is finally completed.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 1. **Sunday Stewardship Promotion**
 - a. "Soft Sell" this year with no pledges to be returned
 - b. Nov. 3—Pastor spoke at weekend Masses
 - c. Nov. 8—Parish letter went out inviting everyone to make a personal pledge
 - d. Nov. 10—Lay speakers spoke at all Masses
 - e. Follow-up letter in mid-Dec.?
 2. **SCRIP:** Coordinator Amy Dallum spok at all Masses Oct. 27 to promote the SCRIP program.
 3. **Building & Grounds Improvements:**
 - a. School gymnasium refurbishments were completed with a grant from the Engelstad Foundation: new stage curtains, choir risers, inset lighting in stage & above stage, sound system, LCD video projector, motorized large screen above stage installed
 - b. Contracted with Altispeed Technologies to revamp Internet & also video camera systems. Includes installing some new equipment & unifying systems for all of the campus facilities.
 - c. Spot tuckpointing on the west wall of the church was completed.
 - d. New shingling of the rectory roof was completed. This cost about \$30,000.
(Shingles for the garage purchased for future installation. These shingles are being stored in the garages on the east property parking lot.)
 - e. Repairs to a leaking pipe in church basement bathroom after a slow leak was discovered.
 - f. Water inundation from October rains flooded two basement rooms in the rectory. Floor rugs were removed down to the cement with no new installation planned. An additional sump pump to be installed at the northwest corner of the house by Dub Construction.
 4. **Liturgical Improvements—Memorial Gift Donations:**
 - New Chalice, Ciborium, and Main Communion Bowl
 - Book of Gospels and Stand
 - Holy Water Vat and Aspergillum
 - Thurible Incenser and Boat
 - 8 Communion Cups
 - 5 of 8 Communion Plates—waiting on additional memorial before purchasing the rest
 5. **Ad Orientem Mass:** There have been several articles in the bulletin to educate people about the Ad Orientem Mass. Mass will be said *ad orientem* every Saturday morning at 7:15 am. Parish Council members at the meeting said they were fine with this decision.
 6. **Evangelization Outreach:**
 - a. Hosted *177 Project*—Catholic evangelist/artist leading adoration praise & worship music

- b. *That Man is You* and *Catholic Man Night* coordinated by Deacon John Bredemeier
- c. Advent Parish Mailing to be sent out with meditation booklet & schedules

7. Pastoral Outreach

- a. Christmas Giving Tree Program is underway—Giving Tree to be set out Nov. 24
- b. Families identified for Christmas baskets
- c. Support of St. Joseph's Empty Bowl and Food Pantry encouraged

8. Christmas Eve Dinner:

- Planning is underway
- Chairpersons are on their 5th & *final* year
- Two separate participation invitations were sent out to local parishes and several Protestant communities. This was met with some success. It would be a shame for St. Mike's to no longer host this dinner after 47 years because no one was willing to take over the leadership.
- The new dinner serving hours of 1 pm—3:30 pm will remain

9. Flocknote: Will be promoted the first weekend in Dec.

- Send unlimited texts
- Unlimited emails
- Get replies in one place & on the go
- Free text-to-join

10. Parish Calendar Dates & Events Coming up:

- a. Nov. 22—Winter Gala
- b. Dec. 1—Flocknote promotion

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Parish Long-Range Planning:** Right now it's being done in-house with parish & school staff discussing priorities. Initial concentration will center on long-range building & grounds capital improvements. For example, refurbishing the church stained-glass windows is one item chosen. This will cost approximately \$100,000. Eventually we hope to finish the third floor of the Pastoral Ctr. Perhaps we might get another grant from the Engelstad Foundation.
- **Winter Gala:** It's coming up on Friday, Nov. 22, at the Alerus. Over 400 of the 500 potential tickets for the car raffle have been sold (but not all have been turned in). About 600 tickets for the Gala have been sold. Sponsorship funding is at \$24,000. Parish Council members themselves donated \$130 to the Gala. The "reverse auction" this year will go towards refurbishment of the church stained-glass windows.
- **Music at Mass:** Brought up again was perhaps having a liturgical dialogue with Jesse & parishioners. Instead of an advisory committee, it was suggested that maybe opinions or a survey could be sought through some other means—such as Flocknote?
Also, discussion continued about the number of hymnals in the pew holders. Should there be *three books with covers* or *four books without covers*? It was thought that the books wouldn't hold up without covers. Jennifer Modeen then motioned that the pew holders have three books with covers. Seconded by Jeri Anderson. Motion passed by the Parish Council.

VI. New Business:

- A council member mentioned that the school could use new basketballs and soccer balls. Maybe the Men's Club or another group could buy them.
- The Parish Evangelization Group would like to put a bookcase down in the church basement with

Evangelization books. The Council thought this was a good idea.

- **How do we recruit people to become involved in parish organizations, etc.?**

This was discussed. Craig Pfau said the KC's have an on-line program to join, but then there needs to be a follow-up. Other Parish Council members said it was important to personally call people. It was commented that sometimes you can recruit new people, but if they then don't come to a meeting, it's not very beneficial. Organizations need long-term leadership to actively engage new members. It was commented that Hope Church here in Grand Forks does a really good job of engaging people and making them feel welcome. Fr. Braun said maybe he should give a homily on greeting people, but it's also important to still honor the "old guard." He said there will be a training workshop in January for ushers, etc., because we didn't have one in the fall.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Sheila Schreiner motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Kevin Fruhwirth. Motion carried & meeting adjourned.
- Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.
- Next meeting: January 14 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen