

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

October 22, 2019

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

- Fr. Braun opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Welcome & Roll Call:** President Sheila Schreiner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call was then taken.
Present: Fr. Braun, Sheila Schreiner, Lowell Schweigert, Kevin Fruhwirth, Dennis Feist, Jennifer Loraas, Kevin Bosh, Craig Pfau, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Jennifer Modeen, Jeri Anderson, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm
- **Approval of Minutes:** Lowell Schweigert motioned that the September minutes be approved. Seconded by Kevin Fruhwirth. Motion carried.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** The Oct. 6 Fall Dinner & Bazaar did well. A profit of \$9555.18 was made. Approximately 453 meals were served. Next year we will start serving the dinner at 10:30 am instead of 11 am.
- **Men's Club:** The organization is in limbo due to declining membership. The Men's Club still sponsors the Boy Scouts and will still have a Fish Fry during Lent.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau reported that not many attended the last meeting. They have received names to recommend for the monthly "Catholic Family of the Month" award. The KC's hope to have a membership drive—perhaps in Nov. The "soccer challenge" did not come to fruition. A church poster contest is planned for Dec. A three-day regional basketball free throw tournament is coming up in Jan.
- **Bridge Builders:** Kevin Bosh reported he didn't make it to the last Bridge Builder's meeting. However, he said the Bridge Builders are still trying to recruit new board members. Also, a new secretary is still needed to take Lisa Christianson's position. The Bridge Builders Breakfast has been cancelled. Council members asked how the Bridge Builder's fund is doing. The principal is still growing, although slowly. Some Council members said more visibility is needed for the Bridge Builders. Jennifer Loraas said she would bring up to the Education Board the proposal that perhaps if a school parent agreed to sit on the Bridge Builders Board, that would take care of all the commitment points needed for the year. Fr. Braun said people need to be identified and then personally asked to serve on boards & organizations, but that is not easy to do. Sheila Schreiner asked that the topic of coming up with the names of people to join organizations be put on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Jennifer Loraas reported that the Education Board met in early Sept. Enrollment at the school is 187 students in preschool through 5th grade. Three new teachers were hired. The school received a "fruit & veggie" grant that provides students with a healthy snack each day free of charge. A "ND Early Childhood" grant of \$16,000 was received. The preschool will use it for their curriculum. Sixty-four children attended the Vacation Bible School in July and eleven older students attended the

Steubenville Conference this summer. Religious Education was looking for more catechists & classroom attendants, but they might have enough now. Upcoming events for the older youth that are planned include a “Back from the Dead” Cemetery Walk, Sunday youth nights, and the March for Life.

- **Finance Council:** The Finance Council did not meet in October because we did not yet have a business manager with Sut White’s moving away the end of Sept. Fr. Braun reported that there were two applicants for the job and Tom Helbling of our parish has been hired. The position is full-time. Tom starts on Mon., Oct. 28.

The Parish Sunday Stewardship Campaign begins in November.

- **Pastor’s Report:**

1. **Liturgical & Devotional Life:**

- a. **St. Michael’s Feast Day** was observed Sept. 29 with Adoration and a breakfast served by the Youth.
- b. **New liturgical vessels** are now in use—chalice & ciborium. A full set of bowls & cups is complete and will begin use sometime in Nov.
- c. **The 177 Project** was held Oct. 14. It was an inspiring evening of worship and adoration with a Catholic musician. Attendance was light—maybe 100 people.
- d. St. Michael’s hosted a **Rosary Congress** on Sat., Oct. 12. Adoration was held 8 am—3:30 pm with a rosary offered at the beginning of each hour.
- e. **Mass attendance counts** are being conducted every Sunday in Oct. This is required by the Diocese.
- f. **Ad Orientem Mass** will be offered one day a week starting in Dec. Choice of day is being revisited as suggested by the Parish Council. A consideration is offering it on Fridays rather than Saturdays.

2. **Christmas Eve Dinner** will again be from 1 to 3:30 pm. A follow-up planning meeting was held Oct. 21. We continue to pursue additional St. Michael’s parish members to serve on the planning committee.

3. **Pastoral Center Donor Recognition “Memorial Tree”** has been painted at the main entrance of the center. Donor Name recognition “leaves” will be installed following the completion of the Campaign Pledge Period in December 2020.

The final payment for the purchase of the Lake Property is to be made by May 2020. Right now \$270,000 is remaining to be paid for the Lake Property. \$100,000 of this remaining \$270,000 goes towards school scholarships.

4. **Altru Hospital Access to Catholic Patients:** “Calling Cards” will be put out at Nurses’ Stations & rooms for patients to request visits by a priest.

5. **SCRIP:** Amy Dallum will talk about SCRIP at Masses on Sun., Oct. 27.

6. **Foster Parenting:** There will be a Foster Parenting presentation by PATH in Nov.

7. **Flocknote:** The “kick-off” for this communications feature has been postponed to the first weekend in Dec. due to conflicting events.

8. **Parish Calendar Dates & Upcoming Events:**

- Oct. 20: World Mission Sunday—Winter Gala Promotion
- Oct. 27: Bridge Builders Mass at 9 am / SCRIP Promotion (no breakfast)
- Nov. 3: Annual Sunday Stewardship Campaign
- Nov. 10: Follow-up for Annual Stewardship Campaign
- Nov. 22: Winter Gala
- Dec. 1: Flocknote & Parish Registration updating effort

9. In his report, Fr. Braun also commented that most Catholics today just seem to be part of the “culture.” The percentage who attend Mass is not very high. Some people have said that currently we are living in basically a “pagan society.”

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Update on Parish Long-Range Planning:** No update but we'll just keep this on the agenda each month.
- **The Winter Gala** is coming up on Friday, Nov. 22.
 - Car raffle sales are ongoing: 500 tickets to be sold at \$100 apiece.
 - Attendance tickets are on sale. The "kick-off" weekend was held Oct. 20 with speakers at each Mass. The tickets are \$30 each. The price goes up to \$40 each after Nov. 4. Some council members felt this deadline for the price increase was too early.
 - Besides buying tickets for the Gala, people are also needed to *sell* the tickets.
 - Parish Council members gave cash donations to Kevin Fruhwirth to give to the Gala Committee. The council had decided to do this instead of putting together a silent auction basket this year.
- **Music at Mass:** Fr. Braun has addressed the pace of the songs sung at Mass with the Liturgy Coordinator and efforts will be attempted. Also, discussed with the coordinator was the suggestion of having three hymnals instead of four in the pew book holders to make it easier to take them out & then put back. An option might be to leave the book covers off, but it's thought the books would take a beating and not last.

VI. New Business: None

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Lowell Schweigert motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Kevin Fruhwirth. Motion carried & meeting adjourned.
- Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.
- Next meeting: November 19 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen