

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

October 23, 2018

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

In President Holly Brown-Borg's absence, Vice-President Lowell Schweigert called the meeting to order. Fr. Braun opened with the Prayer to St. Michael.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Lowell Schweigert, Sheila Schreiner, Kevin Fruhwirth, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Kevin Bosh, Ed Finch, Jennifer Loraas, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Holly Brown-Borg, Bob Kunze, Jennifer Modeen, Pete Bouley
- Approval of Minutes:** Sheila Schreiner motioned that the September minutes be approved. Seconded by Ed Finch. Motion carried.
- Housekeeping:** Fr. Braun asked that the Parish Council President take over generating the meeting agenda & send it along with the minutes out to members before each monthly Parish Council meeting. Fr. Braun will continue to send out the Pastor's Report. After each meeting, the secretary will send the new minutes to Fr. Braun, the president, and the vice-president.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported the Altar Society's Fall Dinner on Oct. 7 went well. She didn't have the final report as to how much was made, but 443 meals were served (up about 20 meals from last year). All of the meatballs went. Raffle tickets sales were down. Because there were so many people waiting, the dinner started serving at 10:45 am instead of 11 am. Fr. Braun and some members suggested that the dinner start at 10:30 am next year. That way people who go to 9 am Mass wouldn't have to wait so long to eat.
- Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported the Men's Club will be serving a breakfast this Sunday, Oct. 28. The complete breakfast includes pancakes, L&M sausages, scrambled eggs, hash browns, eggs to order, juice and coffee. This is the first of their two breakfasts. The scouting program is progressing. The scouts are actively recruiting boys and girls for the scouting program. They are hoping that in February, there will be two scout troops composed—one for boys and another for girls. Kevin Murphy is our new charter organizational representative for the scouting program. He has been actively involved in the past years and will do a good job.
- Knights of Columbus:** Ed Finch reported that the Craig Pfau family was the council's "Family of the Month" for Sept. The family was also selected by the Supreme Council as one of the 100 "Families of the Month" for Sept. The Pete Lund family is the council's "Family of the Month" for Oct. Families of the month are selected as exemplary active families in the parish. They don't necessarily have to be KC members. The Knights will be sponsoring a Christmas coloring contest. They will also sponsor a cornhole tournament for families in Jan. Jan. 20 will be the Mass for Life followed with a meal & speaker. The meat raffle will start in Jan.
- Bridge Builders:** Kevin Bosh reported that the Bridge Builders Breakfast on Oct. 14 was very successful. Close to 300 people were served, up from 200 last year. The profit was approximately \$1200 versus \$700 from last year. Members at the council meeting commented on the good attendance for a breakfast, especially in comparison to the Fall Dinner. Perhaps it's because of the time of day (starting at 8 am) and because there is so much competition from area fall dinners.

The Bridge Builders are continuing to pursue transferring their funds to the Catholic Development Fund. Fr. Braun addressed the issue in his Pastor's article for the Fall issue of the Bridge Builders Newsletter. Given out to the Parish Council members was his letter summarizing the advantages of investing the funds with CDF. He asked that council members review it and put it on the agenda for next month about supporting this move.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

1. **Education Board:** Jennifer Loraas reported that the Education Board does not meet in Oct.
2. **Finance Council:** Fr. Braun reported the Finance Council has not met in several months. Business Manager Sut White had sent to Parish Council members the Quarterly Income Statement. Some council members asked about our fixed expenses such as office & cleaning supplies. How often do we check where we're buying from to get the best prices?
 - a) We have a debt of \$700,000 from our loan from the Diocese for the Pastoral Center. We plan to reduce that by paying \$200,000 now, \$200,000 in Jan. and \$200,000 in the spring.
 - b) Lake Property Sale: A lake lot was sold 1½ months ago and we have received the \$90,000. We intend to honor the commitment of \$100,000 from the lake property sale to the endowment for scholarships set up by the Men's Club. Parish Council members said it was important to come up with guidelines to disperse this scholarship money.
 - c) The Sunday Stewardship Campaign began with priests talking from the pulpit on Sept. 9 and lay speakers on Sept. 16. A parish letter went out Sept. 10 followed by a letter the first week of Oct. sent to those who had not pledged. To date, 434 households have responded. Thank-you letters signed by Fr. Braun were sent to all who offered pledges.
3. **Pastor's Report:**
 - a) St. Michael's Parish Feast Day was held Sat., Sept. 29, with a 10 am Mass. Roughly 170 people attended a beautiful liturgy presided over by Bishop Folda. Lunch and fellowship followed with the meal served by the Men's Club and Altar Society.
 - b) The *177 Project* held on Sunday, Oct. 14, went well. Over 120 attended the evening of prayer and worship. Traveling vocal artist Taylor Tripodi inspired us with her beautiful voice and songs. This has led to staff discussion on considering future praise and worship events. Perhaps there should be more Adoration at St. Mike's—perhaps Adoration on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of every month and Praise & Worship once a month. Fr. Braun mentioned that the other parishes in town seem to want Adoration more at their own parishes rather than promoting Adoration at St. Anne's.
 - c) Sunday special events were well-attended:
 - Fall Dinner & Bazaar
 - Bridge Builders Breakfast
 - Youth Breakfast with Chef NarDane
 - d) Spiritual Services:
 - October Month of the **Rosary:** The Knights of Columbus have been leading the rosary prior to the Sunday Masses throughout the month of October. There has been a discussion of possibly saying the rosary more often—maybe every Sunday. This was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. Some members said it was important to have a reverent & respectful environment while saying the rosary, and this would make it harder for people to be welcomed & visit as they enter in the back of the church. It would be different if St. Mike's had a social hall for people to gather or a chapel area. Also, sometimes the choir needs to practice something before Mass, and some people like having a time for private prayer. Therefore council members

felt that the saying of the rosary every Sunday would be too much.

- We will be creating a Vocations Poster Board at the main entrance of the church to encourage prayers for our seminarians.
- Bishop Folda has requested a Mass be scheduled for the “Reparation of Sins of the Church.” St. Michael’s will have the Mass at 10 am on Saturday, Nov. 10.

e) **Mid-term Elections & Measures:** The Parish has been disseminating information on Measures 1 & 3. The ND Catholic Conference recommends a “NO” vote on each measure. Measure 1 looks good on the surface but the language surrounding the formation of an Ethics Board is vague. Measure 3 legalizes recreational marijuana. Some council members asked if it was proper that the parish be doing this—specifically the marijuana measure. Fr. Braun said the church has a right to advocate against something that would have such an impact on society and the human family. It concerns values in our culture. The parish does not allow materials about individual candidates.

f) **Liturgical Ministries:**

- Ministry training in-services have been held the 2nd & 3rd weeks of Oct. Over 20 new lay people in our parish have received training for the various ministries.
- Should there be a division of labor for our ushers (greeters)—those who take up the collection and those who simply serve to greet? Some people are more comfortable greeting people than others.

g) **Community Christmas Eve Dinner** held at St. Michael’s:

- Sue Shirek will again serve as Committee Chair for this year.
- They have proposed moving the starting time of the dinner from 3 pm to 12 noon on Christmas Eve.
- A second proposal would be to use funds from their reserves to offer people rides via taxis or other means of transportation. It has been a challenge to get drivers to bring people to the event & then bring them back home.

h) **Special Collections:**

- ND Catholic Charities: There was a video presentation about ND Catholic Charities at Masses one weekend and an invitation to give to the special collection.
- The Diocese has passed on a request from the National Conf. of Catholic Bishops to hold a special collection for the recent national disasters (Hurricanes Florence & Michael). Because of our Sunday Stewardship Campaign & ND Catholic Charities collection, we’ll just put something in the bulletin about contributing to the 2018 Disaster Relief.

V. Old & Current Business:

1. The **Diocesan Convocation of Parish Leadership** will be held in Fargo on Nov. 30--Dec. 1. Seventeen parishioners and four staff members from St. Mike’s plan to attend. The first of two preparatory sessions was held Oct. 17. It went well. The next meeting is Nov. 6. The purpose is to help our parish evangelize.
2. **St. Michael’s Winter Gala** will be held at the Alerus Ctr. on Friday, Dec. 7. The car raffle has been postponed to next year due to state licensure requirements and limited time available to sell the tickets. In years past, the Parish Council has contributed a basket or money. It was decided at the council meeting that members who wished could contribute cash for our contribution to the Gala. The Gala committee can use it for SCRIP gift cards or whatever. The cash donations should be brought to the Parish Office by Nov. 1.
3. **Parish Long-Range Planning:** We still need to engage the strategic planner, Dennis Elbert, to have a planning meeting as to how to get the process started.
4. **Sacristy Refurbishment:** It’s coming along. The new island (for countertop & storage space) will be installed

probably in Jan.

5. **Electronic Sign:** City Planner Brad Gengler responded to Education Board member Emily Wangen's inquiry about City approval of our electronic sign. He said several areas in the regulations would need to be amended. For example, right now *no* three-sided signs are allowed anywhere in Grand Forks. Council member Sheila Schreiner said she would see what she could do.

VI. New Business:

1. The parish is sponsoring a table for ten at the **Northlands Rescue Mission Banquet** on Mon., Oct. 29. The banquet is at 6 pm at the Alerus Ctr. There is a sign-up roster in the Parish Office.
2. The parish is exploring ideas on how to replace some liturgical items such as the Book of the Gospels, Communion Cups, and other items. Perhaps a list could be posted in the bulletin with the prices and an invitation to offer memorials on behalf of loved ones to purchase a particular item. Council members supported this idea.
3. **Allowing outside groups to use the Pastoral Center:** For example, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church meets in a room in the Pastoral Ctr. on Saturday afternoons. An organ transplant support group has asked if they could meet in our building. (One of the members is a parishioner.) This was discussed. The Parish Council felt its role was to approve a policy but not necessarily come up with the policy. Fr. Braun will have our business manager develop a policy.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

1. There being no further business, Sheila Schreiner motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Kevin Fruhwirth. Motion carried.
2. Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.
3. Next meeting: November 27

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen