

# St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

## November 27, 2018

### I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

- Holly Brown-Borg called the meeting to order.
- Fr. Braun led the opening prayer.

### II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Holly Brown-Borg, Lowell Schweigert, Bob Kunze, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jennifer Loraas, Mary Ann Whalen  
**Absent:** Sheila Schreiner, Jennifer Modeen, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Ed Finch, Kevin Bosh, Pete Bouley
- **Approval of Minutes:** Lowell Schweigert motioned to approve the Oct. 23 minutes. Seconded by Bob Kunze. Motion passed.

### III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported the general church cleaning on Nov. 19 went well. There was a good turnout.
- **Men's Club:** No report.
- **Knights of Columbus:** No report.
- **Bridge Builders:** Fr. Braun had written a long article for the Bridge Builders Newsletter about the advantages of investing their funds with the Diocese's Catholic Development Fund (CDF). He also mentioned that some Bridge Builder members are still hesitant about putting money into the CDF. They wonder if the money would be safeguarded if the Diocese were ever sued. The consensus of the Parish Council members was that the money would be safe.

### IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Jennifer Loraas reported that the school enrollment (including preschool) is now 186. There will be a tuition increase of 10% next fall. St. Michael's has not increased tuition since the 2016-17 school year and right now our tuition is the lowest of the GF-EGF Catholic Schools. There are 145 students enrolled in Religious Education. In the high school ministry there are 42 young people. There are a lot of 9<sup>th</sup>-graders this year and there is a mix of public & home school students. Jesse Zyskowski will be taking 16 youth to the Washington March for Life this Jan. The Youth Breakfast put on in Oct. raised \$1500.
- **Finance Council:** Fr. Braun reported the Finance Council had met earlier that day and all is solvent. We have made a payment now on our loan from the Diocese. We are not behind on our budget. (The figures in the bulletin are always two weeks behind.)
- **Pastor's Report:** Fr. Braun reported the morale of the staff is good. About fifteen people are going to the Diocesan Convocation of Parish Leadership to be held in Fargo Nov. 30--Dec. 1. We hope to gain insight as to how to evangelize in our parish.

#### V. Old & Current Business:

- **St. Michael's Winter Gala** is coming up on Friday, Dec. 7. Things look good—In fact, too many tickets might have been sold. The committee is reconfiguring the seating arrangement to make sure there will be room for everyone in our area at the Alerus. This year there will be bingo games played, including a blackout bingo for \$1000 cash.
- **Parish Long-Range Planning:** Fr. Braun felt it was necessary for our parish to go ahead with the process to develop another "long-range plan." We haven't yet contacted the strategic planner, Dennis Elbert, but will do so after the first of the year.
- **Community Christmas Eve Dinner:** There is a planning meeting scheduled for Thurs., Nov. 29. It's been hard to get a Leadership Committee together.
- **Outdoor Electronic Sign:** Our proposed exterior sign in the front schoolyard will be brought up before the City Planning & Zoning Commission at their next meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Nov. 28 from 1 to 2:30 pm.
- **Sacristy Refurbishment:** We're still waiting for the island to be finished. It will be installed in January.

#### VI. New Business:

- **Gala Silent Auction Basket:** Brought up was whether the Parish Council was going to put together a basket for the Gala. However, it was decided back at the Oct. meeting (when a number of Parish Council members were absent) that members who wished could donate cash for our contribution & the Gala Committee could use it for SCRIP gift cards or whatever.
- **Christmas Giving Tree:** It was mentioned that a lot of the cards on the Giving Tree were taken the very first week. The tree was then filled with new cards the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. The tree will be moved from the back of the church up to the front near Mary's altar now that the Nov. memorial candles for loved ones are no longer there.

#### VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Lowell Schweigert motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Bob Kunze. Motion carried & meeting closed.
- Fr. Braun led members in praying the Angelus.
- Next meeting: January 29

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Whalen