

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

February 19, 2019

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, Sheila Schreiner, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jennifer Modeen, Kevin Boehm, Kevin Bosh, Jennifer Loraas, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Lowell Schweigert, Bob Kunze, Judy Jahnke, Ed Finch, Pete Bouley
- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the Nov. 27 meeting were approved.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported that the Altar Society helped with the benefit breakfast for Fr. Wm. Sherman on Sun., Jan. 27. The Soup & Pie Supper on Sat., Feb. 2, went well. Eighty-four dozen doughnuts were sold.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Behm reported the Men's Club had completed their two breakfasts. They made about \$1400--\$1500 on each one. The Month of Money made \$4500. The Scouts are actively recruiting for a girls' troop. The Men's Club will have two fish fries: Fri., March 8, & Fri., April 12. They hope to have enough help, but it might be a challenge. Kevin Boehm & Pete Bouley are taking charge this year.
- **Knights of Columbus:** The KC's are having a meat raffle to raise money for seminarians. They are leading the rosary before the Sunday morning Masses.
- **Bridge Builders:** Kevin Bosh reported the Bridge Builders had an open forum meeting for parishioners/ Bridge Builder members on Feb. 12 in which there was a teleconference with two members from the Catholic Development Foundation in Fargo to answer questions about the proposed transfer of Bridge Builder funds to the CDF. On Feb. 14, the Bridge Builders sent out 500 letters with mail-in ballots. Included in the mailing was a memo from Fr. Braun with a question & answer page advocating for the merger. The annual meeting of the Bridge Builders is set for Sunday, March 31, at 1 pm in the church basement. The ballots will be tallied & the merger will be voted on at that meeting. Parish Council members were given a copy of Fr. Braun's letter. One of the items he highlighted was that the cost of managing the investments will be considerably less: **Alerus**--\$500 annual administration fee & 1% of market value of accounts annually--\$7752.18 in 2017 / **CDF**—no annual administration fee & based on .5% of asset value annually--\$3790.30. Fr. Braun would like to see the Bridge Builders fund grow more—maybe it could be marketed better.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Jennifer Loraas reported that Principal Sara Dudley would like to implement a Systematic Schoolwide Behavior Model. She also wants to purchase a Responsive Classroom Course package. The cost is \$21,000 and is part of the school budget. The school was going to have an Open House on Feb. 7, but that was cancelled because of the weather & will be rescheduled in March.

Fr. Braun mentioned that Principal Dudley is well-respected among the diocese's principals. He said the parish currently subsidizes St. Mike's School at about 30%, down considerably from years ago. More of the school's budget is paid by tuition.

Religious Education: Forty-five students made their First Confession recently. A number of the Youth Group attended the Wash., DC, March for Life in Jan.

- **Finance Council:** Fr. Braun reported the Finance Council had met earlier that day. We are doing well on our loan payment to the Diocese for the Pastoral Center. We have only about \$350,000 left to pay. The lake property sale balance is due the spring of 2020.

Some Parish Council members said it would be nice if our business manager Sut White would attend the Parish Council meetings. That way they could ask him questions about our finances. A suggestion was made that, if not in person, perhaps he could attend our meetings remotely.

- **Pastor's Report:**

1. **Spiritual & Liturgical Life of the Parish**

- Advent parish letter was sent out to households with meditation booklet & schedules
- Christmas Giving Tree saw over 300 gifts collected & delivered to over 40 families, the Gianna Home, Women's Pregnancy Ctr., Northlands Rescue Mission
- Community Christmas Eve Dinner-- held earlier in afternoon
- Christmas Liturgies were a blessing, with thanks to Jesse Zyskowski & volunteers who provided a magnificent setting to help us celebrate our Lord's Birth
- Parish Prison Ministry continues with compassion and courage

2. **Parish Evangelization:** The 12 members who attended the Leadership Convocation are meeting monthly for prayer and discernment. Currently they are doing a book study "Becoming Missionary Disciples." They hope to develop some action to further assist our parish in the work of evangelization.

3. **Annual God's Gift Appeal**

- 2018 Parish Goal: \$165,919 Pledged amount: \$166,135 Paid down: \$158,396
- Number of St. Mike's households in the diocesan database: 1557
- Number of households contributing to God's Gift: 521 (33% participation)
- 2019 God's Gift Goal: \$162,213
- Parishioners will speak from the pulpit about God's Gift the weekend of Feb. 24

4. **Community Christmas Eve Dinner:** The meal was served earlier this year—from 1 to 3:30 pm. Attendance was up and the event was well-run. Fr. Braun will meet with the three main coordinators on Feb. 20 to discuss the transition of leadership for next year. Potential new chairpersons are being sought.

5. **Lenten Programs**

- Bible Study with Fr. Keller
- Sunday morning video presentations about key saints in history---"Pivotal Players" w/ Bishop Barron
- *Catholic Man Night* continues to meet the third Thursday for Adoration, a talk, and a meal
- Planning for an abridged parish mission with Taylor Tripodi. She's a Catholic recording artist who led our parish in an evening of worship and song this past Oct.
- A Lenten appeal is planned to invite parishioners to share some time and talent for minor repair tasks around the church, painting, cleaning, etc.
- A Lenten mailing is going out with a meditation booklet and calendar of the Lenten spiritual events such as Stations of the Cross, penance services, etc.

6. It has been requested that we consider moving the morning weekday Mass from 7:15 am to 7:00 am.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Pastoral Center Issues:** Sut White had earlier sent out an email reminding people using the Pastoral Center to make sure the doors are locked and areas are cleaned up after use. Included was a checklist to use.
- **Update on success of the Winter Gala:** Fr. Braun reported that the Dec. Winter Gala was a success. About \$90,000 gross was taken in with a net profit of about \$60,000.
- **Update on the Parish Long-Range Planning Process:** Fr. Braun and Sut White met with Dennis Elbert on Jan. 3 to discuss enlisting his & Galen Cariveau's assistance in guiding us through the process. Dennis & Galen worked with our parish in 2011 during our last long-range planning. They have submitted their proposal but were unable to attend either the finance or parish council meetings on Feb. 19. Their proposed cost for the project is \$9950. Fr. Braun reported that the Finance Council was **not** in favor of spending that amount of money right now. They aren't sure that the parish currently has an effective starting point to justify hiring outside consultants at this time. Some Parish Council members disagreed with this and wanted to proceed. They asked that the Finance Council further explain their reasoning. Fr. Braun will go back to the Finance Council.
- **Update on Outdoor Electronic Sign:** On Jan. 22, the City Council formally revoked the current electronic sign ordinance so the Planning & Zoning Commission could draft a new one. Fr. Braun met with City Planner Brad Gengler and the drafting committee on Feb. 15. The new proposed ordinance will go before the City Council on March 16 for final approval. Under the new ordinance, we would be allowed to install a 3-sided electronic sign at the current location. There are further complexities, but if the new ordinance passes, we hope to proceed this summer. ICON is still willing to give us \$25,000 towards the sign.
- **Sacristy Refurbishment Progress:** The sacristy improvements should be finished this month. Pete Bouley built and installed the new island cabinet/workstation. Dennis Narlock is refinishing the existing sacristy cabinetry and framing around doors and windows.

VI. New Business:

- **Celebrating the Mass Ad Orientem:** There has been a request that St. Michael's consider offering a monthly Mass *Ad Orientem*—"facing east." This term is used to denote celebrating Mass with the priest offering the Eucharistic Prayer with his back to the people—in a sense, facing with them the Lord. Fr. Braun asked if we would consider doing this once a month at some point in the future (in the afternoon). However, he said people would need to be educated about this first. Parish Council members discussed this. Holly Brown-Borg motioned that the Council support Fr. Braun's exploration of having a Mass *Ad Orientem*. Seconded by Kevin Boehm. Motion passed.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There was no further business. Sheila Schreiner motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Kevin Fruhwirth. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.
- Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.
- Next meeting: March 19

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen