

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

August 27, 2019

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

- Fr. Braun opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- **Welcome to New Members:** New members were welcomed & everyone introduced themselves.
- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Sheila Schreiner, Lowell Schweigert, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jeri Anderson, Dennis Feist, Kevin Boehm, Jennifer Loraas, Kevin Bosh, Craig Pfau, Sut White, Jennifer Modeen, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Judy Jahnke
- **Approval of Minutes:** The May meeting's minutes had been sent out to members. Kevin Bosh motioned for approval. Seconded by Lowell Schweigert. Motion approved.
- **Election of Officers:** The floor was opened for nominations for President & Vice-President for this new year. Jennifer Modeen motioned to nominate Sheila Schreiner for President. Seconded by Lowell Schweigert. Motion approved. Jennifer Modeen then motioned to nominate Lowell Schweigert for Vice-President. Seconded by Sheila Schreiner. Motion approved. Sheila Schreiner then led the meeting.
- **Overview of Parish Council Mission:** The question was asked: What is the mission of the Parish Pastoral Council? Some responses were:
 - to represent the Parish
 - to be honest with concerns
 - not to be afraid to disagree, if needed

Fr. Braun will mail out the Parish Pastoral Council Constitution to members & we'll continue this discussion at the next meeting.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported that the Altar Society is gearing up for the Fall Dinner & Bazaar on Sunday, October 6. Ladies recently made 192 dozen doughnuts to sell at the bazaar. The Altar Society was mailing out their annual letter & raffle tickets later that week. They will have their fall meeting on Sept. 12.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported that the Men's Club has started selling tickets for their December "Month of Money." He & Pete Bouley are the only officers this year. The Men's Club was unable to get any other officers at their meeting last May. Membership in the Men's Club has gone down, so they will not be putting on any breakfasts this year. However, they do hope to have a fish fry. Their next meeting is in Oct. The Men's Club supports the Boy Scouts & the Youth of the Parish, among other things. Last year they donated about \$12,000. The Men's Club charts Boy Scout Troop 1 & Cub Scout Pack 1. If the Men's Club were to fold, who would take over chartering the Scouts? The Knights of Columbus could not do so because of their rules.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Craig Pfau is the new representative for the Knights of Columbus. They have not yet met for the coming year.

- **Bridge Builders:** Kevin Bosh reported that the Bridge Builders hadn't met since their appreciation dinner in June. There is one more document to be signed to complete the transfer of their funds to the Diocese's Catholic Development Fund in Fargo. The Bridge Builders are still looking for new board members. It was suggested that maybe the Board of Education could reach out to find new people to serve on the Bridge Builder's Board. Fr. Braun said he would like the Bridge Builders to pursue getting larger donations.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Jennifer Loraas reported that the first meeting was to be held the following week.
- **Finance Council:** Business Manager Sut White had given members a number of reports, including the June Statement of Activities and Statement of Financial Position which was the end of the fiscal year. He also gave out the July financial reports.
 - We made \$92,000 from last year's Winter Gala.
 - The profit from SCRIP for the past year was \$35,000.
 - Capital Campaign pledges brought in \$142,861.80
 - The school roof repair cost \$56,000.
 - At the end of the fiscal year, we were \$14,531.88 ahead of budget.
 - The balance of the Lake Property Sale still to be collected is down to \$270,000. We should be paid in full by May 29, 2020.
 - Tithing income is up this July compared to last July.
 - Our current year's budget is \$1,088,057.
 - Our Pastoral Campaign pledges total \$1,245,330.70
So far we have actually collected \$1,179,811.66.
 - The loan we took out for the Pastoral Center was \$725,000 plus interest. Right now we still owe \$160,448.18. We have about 9 months to pay it off.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 1. **Summertime Highlights:**
 - Life Runners on July 4: A prolife event starting from four directions around the nation with GF St. Michael's being the Northern point. Over 50 attended Mass & participated in the event.
 - The Parish Picnic was held at Lincoln Park on July 10.
 - Vacation Bible School was held July 8-11.
 - Youth attended the Catholic Steubenville Youth Conference Jul 12-14.
 - Two St. Michael's teams participated in the Diocesan Vocation Fundraiser "Putt-4-a-Purpose." St. Michael's team took 1st place—our third top placement in the past ten years.
 2. Council members were given a roster of St. Michael's Parish & School employees.
Bernie Altendorf has stepped down from her role of Pastoral Ministry/Parish Nurse after 19 years. Deacon John Bredemeier will serve as Pastoral Outreach Coordinator.
 3. **Synopsis of St. Michael's Parish Boards, Committees, Organizations, and Religious & Spiritual Formation Entities:**
 - Parish Council
 - Finance Council
 - Bridge Builder's School Endowment Foundation
 - Education Board
 - Home & School Association

- Altar Society—meetings, events, banquets
 - Men's Club—meetings & events
 - Knights of Columbus—meetings & events
 - Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts—church basement & gym
 - Adult Bible Study and Continuing Education programs
 - RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—formation & education in the Catholic Faith
 - Religious Education Programs—Wednesdays
 - Elementary K-5
 - Junior High 6-8
 - Senior High 9-12
 - Sacramental Preparation with retreats and parent education
 - Winter Gala Planning Committee
 - Christmas Eve Dinner Committee
 - Prison Ministry to Grand Forks Correctional Facility
 - Home School Families—special classes at Pastoral Ctr. & church basement
 - Immaculata Prayer Group—Tuesdays
 - Cenacle Prayer Group for Evangelization
 - Catholic Men's Spiritual Support Group—Tuesdays & Fridays—Pastoral Ctr.
 - Diocesan-sponsored events—e.g., hosting Diocesan Catechist In-Service on Sept. 4
4. **Parish Fall Newsletter** will be sent out Sept. 12. It is an effort to introduce our Fall programs and encourage participation at Mass & Religious Education for Families.
 5. **Evangelization Effort in Sept.:** A series of three postcards will be mailed out to all households inviting & encouraging folks to come and worship with us. This grew out of our Parish Cenacle group—the evangelization leaders who attended the Diocesan Evangelization Convocation last year in early Dec.
 6. **Improvements & Repairs for Church & School:** Given out were lists of both short-term improvements & intermediate capital improvements & repairs.
 7. **Liturgical Life:**
 - **Ad Orientem Mass:** Starting this summer, Mass has been offered *ad orientem* on the first Saturday of each month at 9 am. Starting this Advent, it will instead be offered *every* Saturday at the regularly scheduled time of 7:15 am. Council members commented on this. Some said they had heard from several people who aren't too happy with this—especially since our Saturday 7:15 am Mass is the only early-morning Sat. Mass offered in GF-EGF. A suggestion was made that maybe it should be just once a month instead of every Sat. Also, it was suggested that the ad orientem Mass not necessarily always have to be at 7:15 am. on Sat. but could perhaps be at other scheduled Masses. Fr. Braun said he needs to educate people more about Mass said “ad orientem.”
 - Jeremy Schmaltz (the music teacher at the school) has been hired to lead the adult choir.
 8. **Altru Hospital Access to Catholic Patients:** Catholic pastors met with Altru Chaplains in Aug. to discuss how to work with HIPPS (Health Insurance Portability & Accounting Act). The Altru Chaplain Dept. is developing better procedures to gather information on patient religious needs & thereby report that information more quickly to the area parishes.
 9. **Winter Gala—Friday, Nov. 22:** A committee will meet on Sept. 9. It worked well last year at the Alerus Ctr. Even though it was more expensive to hold it there, it was one of our best years ever. This year we will have the full ballroom. New is a car raffle. Only 500 tickets will be available at \$100 each. The most immediate need is for Business Solicitation Volunteers.

10. **Christmas Eve Dinner:** It will again be served 1 to 3:30 pm. A planning meeting will be held in Sept. Invitations were sent out to area Catholic parishes and selected Protestant churches. We will continue to pursue additional St. Michael's parish members to serve on the planning committee.
11. **School Preliminary Report:** "Back to School" night was held Aug. 22. Over 300 meals were served. The school enrollment is up by 3 students to 184.
12. **Religious Education Report:** A few more teachers are needed.
13. **Deanery Representative:** Scott Schreiner is our parish's representative to the Deanery.
14. **Pastoral Ctr. Plaque:** There will be a plaque painted on the wall in the entrance of the Pastoral Ctr. with tear-drop leaves with donors' names on them.
15. **Traveling Rosary:** Information will be forthcoming.

V. Old & Current Business:

- **Update on the Parish Long-Range Planning:** Given out was a list of Proposed Long-Term Capital Improvements—awaiting prioritization. We still want to get more people involved in the life & events of the parish.
- **Update on Outdoor Electronic Sign:** Just today (Aug. 27) the electronic sign was being installed. ICON Architecture donated \$25,000.
- **Sacristy Refurbishment:** We are getting another cabinet installed to store vestments.

VI. New Business:

- **Flock Note:** The parish is discerning whether to engage our parishioners in an on-line communications application called Flock Note. This uses text messages & emails. Some council members were familiar with this type of application & said it can be very useful. There will be a "Kick-Off" Sunday to explain Flock Note.
- **Missals in Pews:** A council member reported that several parishioners have said it is difficult to remove a missal from the holder in the pew when there are four of them in there. They are in there too tight. Should we change from four books to three books in each of the pews?
- **Music at Mass:** Another council member asked if more contemporary music could be sung at Mass instead of just the old traditional hymns. Maybe new songbooks are needed? Maybe a liturgy committee could be formed to advise Jesse? We'll discuss this at the next meeting.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Sheila Schreiner motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Kevin Bosh. Motion carried & meeting adjourned.
- Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.
- Next meeting: September 24 at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen