

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

August 28, 2018

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Fr. Braun called the meeting to order and led the opening prayer.

II. Organizational & Routine Matters

- Fr. Braun welcomed everyone, especially the new members, to the council.
- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Bob Kunze, Holly Brown-Borg, Lowell Schweigert, Sheila Schreiner, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jennifer Modeen, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Boehm, Ed Finch, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Kevin Bosh, Pete Bouley
- **Approval of Minutes:** Holly Brown-Borg motioned for approval of the May minutes. Seconded by Lowell Schweigert. Motion passed.
- **Election of Officers:** Lowell Schweigert nominated Holly Brown-Borg to be the new council president. Seconded by Sheila Schreiner. Holly accepted the nomination. Members unanimously elected Holly as president. Holly Brown-Borg then nominated Lowell Schweigert to be vice-president. Seconded by Sheila Schreiner. Members unanimously elected Lowell as vice-president. Holly then took over running the meeting.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported that the Altar Society will meet next week. The Fall Dinner & Bazaar is coming up on Sunday, Oct. 7. Ham & meatballs will again be served. Volunteers are being recruited to work at the dinner. Ladies made doughnuts last week in preparation for the bazaar. They will be sold for \$8 a dozen. Rita Myers will be helping to chair the Funeral Committee. Marilyn & Robert Wocken will assist.
- **Men's Club:** Kevin Boehm reported the Men's Club will begin meeting in Sept. The Scouts will be recruiting on Thurs., Aug. 30. One of the issues the Men's Club will be discussing is Family Scouting. Family Scouting involves the admission of girls into the scouting program. The Cub Scouts will be losing 6 boys because a new pack is starting up in Manvel.
The Men's Club is in charge of the luncheon to be served after the St. Michael's Feast Day Mass on Sat., Sept. 29. They are serving sloppy joes, baked beans, chips, cake, lemonade, and coffee.
The Men's Club is looking forward to another good year with more young people active in the scouting program and more support with youth in the many activities throughout the parish and community.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Ed Finch reported that the Knights have not met recently. They will be cooking for the Special Olympics meet in Grand Fork about the 2nd week of Sept.
- **Bridge Builders:** In Kevin Bosh's absence, Fr. Braun reported that the Bridge Builders did not meet during the summer. The board will be sending out information to educate their members about the benefits of the Bridge Builders transferring its money to invest with the Catholic Development Fund in Fargo. Members will vote on this next year. The Bridge Builders' executive secretary Lisa Christianson has moved to Bemidji but will continue with her duties from there.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Fr. Braun reported that Jeri Anderson has completed her term as the education board's representative and the board will appoint Jennifer Lorras. The Education Board will be meeting soon. The new school year has begun. The enrollment is 188 from preschool through 5th grade—up from 168 last year. A \$50,000 grant was received from the Engelstad Foundation to make stage improvements in the Youth Ctr. Religious Education classes start on Sept. 12. All the teachers are lined up, including eight new catechists. Teacher formation & orientation is Wed., Sept. 5.
- **Finance Council:** Fr. Braun reported that Sut White had put together some financial information:
 1. This year the school has switched to a new payment system for tuition called RenWeb Collection. \$9152 was collected the first month. This amount will increase more once all the agreements are finalized and processed.
 2. Weekly Collections: We are currently behind \$10,086 year to date (July 1—Aug. 26). The average weekly donation by parishioners is \$11.96.
 3. Our annual budget goal is \$1,077,315.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 1. The Diocesan Convocation of Leadership meeting is scheduled Nov. 30—Dec. 1 in Fargo. St. Mike's has 17 parishioners & 4 staff scheduled to attend.
 2. St. Michael's Patronal Feast Day will be Sat., Sept. 29. Bishop Folda will be here for a 10 am Mass with luncheon afterwards.
 3. Liturgical Ministries: We hope to increase participation in liturgical ministries, sales of SCRIP, etc., especially after the 11 am & 5 pm Sunday Masses.
 4. St. Michael's Gala (formerly called the Fall Fun Fest) will be held at the Alerus Ctr. on Friday, Dec. 7. Tickets will be \$30 if purchased before Dec. 1. There might also be a car raffle.
 5. Community Christmas Eve Dinner held at St. Michael's: No action was taken over the summer to secure leadership commitment.
 6. The Permanent Diaconate Program will be starting the Fall of 2020. The Diocese is encouraging recruitment of candidates. A parishioner has expressed interest.
 7. A roster of our parish & school staff was passed out. We have about 35 full & part-time employees.
 - Fr. Keller will be away on a Holy Land Pilgrimage Oct. 18-30.
 - Jesse Zyskowski is attending Nat'l Guard Training Aug. 27-Sept. 24.
 - Msgr. Pilon is serving as a resident retired priest. He will be covering several daily Masses and also some weekend Masses when the others are away.
 8. The Summer Parish Picnic was held at the parish due to the high heat index. It was still well attended.
 9. The Loop Field Hearing System in the church is on hold for the next year or so. It would necessitate replacing the carpet and that would entail refurbishing the sanctuary as well.
 - The bishop does not want carpet put down in a sanctuary—instead he wants marble or a similar-type flooring.
 - A structural review of our sanctuary has deemed it sturdy enough to hold this type of flooring.
 - We had a meeting on 5/15/18 with consultant Rolf Rohn. He is working on a draft proposal on refurbishing the sanctuary. It may include installing a more substantial Altar and also replacing the Lexalite on our stained glass windows with a new clear Plexiglass that could let in up to 30% more light.
 10. New Electronic Sign: This is still on hold. Fr. Braun has not talked to the mayor yet. Sheila Schreiner

said city statutes would need to be changed & the City is reluctant to do this. The regulations concern its location near a state highway (N. 5th St.) and a residential area. Also, we're not sure how long ICON will hold their estimate for us.

11. Long-Range Planning: At the May meeting, Fr. Braun had spoken about maybe doing another 5-year long-range plan for the parish. The last one was done in 2009. He was thinking of revisiting this in a year. However, council members felt that having a long-range plan was very important—for both the buildings & grounds as well as for the parish life—and we shouldn't wait. Fr. Braun might ask the strategic planner we used before to come to one of the parish council meetings this fall.
12. **Clergy Abuse & Cover-up Scandal:** Fr. Braun brought this subject up to the council in light of the most recent revelations. The Bishop's letter was read at all parishes on Aug. 19 and Fr. Braun preached on it at all Masses on Aug. 26. He's considering putting out a letter to the parish as well. He asked council members their thoughts on the subject. Several council members very strongly said they were extremely upset by all of this and that some high-ranking leaders have got to go. Some felt that the abuse & cover-up is still going on. They felt something needs to be done—more than leaders just putting out another letter. A member remarked that bureaucracies (government, church, etc.) have a hard time policing themselves.

V. Old & Current Business

- **Summer Improvement Projects:** A report listing Parish & School Repair & Improvement Projects was given out:
 1. Full retrofit of electrical & hydraulic components in the school elevator: \$60,000
 2. Painted the gym apartment along with new flooring & carpet, lights, blinds, and new outlets to get it ready for the After-School Program: \$6000
 3. Two doors received new panic bars: \$3000
 4. Replaced M&H school doors and insulated dome window: \$17,000
 5. School computer lab was completely refitted for new I.D.E.A. lab: \$4000
 6. Painting project in the school including hallways, bathrooms, entry: \$3000
 7. New wall matts placed behind basketball hoops for safety
 8. Grant was received for Stage improvements including curtains, lights, paint, and sound system
 9. Roof on the 1950 school building was replaced: \$61,000—from funds left from the geothermal campaign
 10. Will be finishing the tuckpointing on the west side of the church hopefully this fall
 11. Replaced partial sidewalks at M&H basement entrance and in front of school
 12. Removed house at 520 N. 5th St. and laid down gravel bed for parking
 13. New flowerbeds in landscaping area of Pastoral Center
 14. Numerous other small repairs were done throughout the buildings and grounds.
- **Council Election Sunday:** As proposed at the May meeting, changing the Sunday for elections was again brought up. Sheila Schreiner motioned that the Parish Council elections be changed from the third Sunday in May to the last Sunday in April. Seconded by Judy Jahnke. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business:

- Lowell Schweigert said he'd been asked by a parishioner that the minutes of the parish & finance councils be put in the bulletin and website. This was discussed. This would give more transparency, but the minutes should be approved first. Rather than putting them in the bulletin, it could be stated in the bulletin where to find them on the website. Lowell Schweigert then motioned that the approved

minutes from the Parish Council meeting be placed on the website. Seconded by Jennifer Modeen. Motion passed. The Finance Council will be asked to do the same.

- Bob Kunze said someone had asked him if, when Mass intentions are published, the person paying for the Mass could be listed, also. That way, the family of the loved one could thank them. Some council members said some parishes do that. However, it would need to be optional because some people would not want their names published. Fr. Braun will talk to Lori Beckstead in the parish office about this.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Lowell Schweigert motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Bob Kunze. Meeting adjourned. Fr. Braun said the closing prayer.
- Next meeting: September 18.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen