

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting

September 18, 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, Sheila Schreiner, Kevin Fruhwirth, Jennifer Modeen, Judy Jahnke, Kevin Bosh, Ed Finch, Jennifer Loraas, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Bob Kunze, Kevin Boehm, Pete Bouley
- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the August meeting were approved. They will now be published on the parish webpage and in the weekly email.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Judy Jahnke reported that the Altar Society met on Sept. 6 with a potluck dinner & meeting.
 - a) Thirty-one funeral lunches were served from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.
 - b) The Fall Dinner is coming up on Sun., Oct. 7, from 11 am to 2 pm. The bazaar booths will open at 10 am and run to 1 pm. Doughnuts will be sold for \$8 a dozen.
 - c) Besides the \$15,000 the Altar Society gave to the parish this past year, another \$15,000 is being placed in the Catholic Development Fund in Fargo. The Altar Society would like the money eventually to go towards new flooring in the Sanctuary.
 - d) The Altar Society will assist with the setup & cleanup of the luncheon the Men's Club is putting on following the Mass on our Parish's Feast Day, Sept. 29.
 - e) Church cleaning is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 1.
- **Men's Club:** The Men's Club is putting on the luncheon following the 10 am Mass said by Bishop Folda on St. Michael's Parish's Patronal Feast Day—Sat., Sept. 29. They will also put on a breakfast in Oct. They voted to continue to sponsor the Boy Scouts—now called Family Scouting with the admission of girls.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Ed Finch reported the Knights met on Sept. 13. They meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. Betty Gemmill of our parish requested that the Knights take the money raised so far for the proposed new monument for aborted children. They will put it in a fund until the rest of the money is raised. Last Sat., Sept. 15, the KC's cooked food for the Special Olympics (550 people—participants & coaches). On Sept. 23 at 1 pm the Knights will have their "Soccer Challenge" at Bringewatt Park. No pre-signup is necessary—any children can come. On our Sept 29 Feast Day Celebration, the KC's will provide the afternoon entertainment—perhaps a bean bag toss—following the lunch.
- **Bridge Builders:** Kevin Bosh reported that the Bridge Builders had met earlier that evening. They walked through the school to look at what they had bought. For example, the Bridge Builders had purchased a milk cooler for the school. They have a budget carry-over of \$6000 but Principal Sara Dudley doesn't have any specific needs for it right now. The Bridge Builders is donating \$1000 to the Gala & will again purchase tickets for teachers & their guests. The Bridge Builders Breakfast is set for Sun., Oct. 14. The board plans to continue to inform members about the reasons for transferring their funds to the diocesan Catholic Development Fund (CDF)—e.g., lower costs because of the larger pool of money, more can be done (annuities, etc.). The vote will be in the spring. Also, the Bridge Builders perhaps needs to come up with better marketing to get people to make donations. This is something the CDF will be able to help them with.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Jennifer Loraas is the new representative on the Parish Council from the Education Board. The board meets every two months. The school is going strong with 188 children from preschool through 5th grade. The school will have a float in the Potato Bowl Parade. Religious Education started Wed., Sept. 13, with a Mass. Enrollment in our Religious Ed has been going down over the years. However, recently our senior high enrollment has been growing.
- **Finance Council:** The Finance Council did not meet at noon due to the birth today of our business manager's tenth child. They will meet next week. Our Sunday Stewardship Campaign has begun. Pulpit talks were given by the priests on Sept. 9. A parish letter went out on Sept. 10 introducing the campaign. Lay speakers then spoke on Sept. 16. So far, about 180 of the pledge cards in the pews have been turned in. A follow-up letter will be sent out the week of Oct. 1 to parishioners who have not pledged. Parish Council members asked Fr. Braun what exactly is done with the pledge cards and how do they factor into our budget. He will ask the Finance Council about this. Also, it was mentioned that Sacred Heart Parish has started a 5:30 pm Sunday Mass. Our 5 pm Sunday Mass attendance seems to be down a little. Will this affect our Sunday Collection?
- **Pastor's Report:**
 1. **Parish Dates/Events:**
 - a) Sat., Sept. 29: Parish Feast Day
 - b) Sun., Sept. 30: High School Youth Breakfast Fundraiser—8 am to 12:30 pm in church basement
 - c) Thurs., Oct. 4: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi—Pet Blessing at 5:45 pm on front steps of church
 - d) Sun., Oct. 7: *Back from the Dead* Cemetery Walk from 6 to 9 pm at Calvary North Cemetery
 - e) Tues., Oct. 9 & Thurs., Oct. 11: Training for New Liturgical Ministers at 7 pm
 - f) Sun., Oct. 14: *The 177 Project*—Praise & Worship Adoration in the church
 - g) Tues./Thurs., Oct. 16/18: Liturgical Ministers Annual Mini-Retreat—church
 2. **Community Christmas Eve Dinner** held at St. Michael's: New leadership has not yet been secured. It is very hard to find people to take over, especially if they have full-time jobs. It might be easier for someone who is retired. Fr. Braun will talk to last year's leaders again. Also, mentioned was that there seem to be more & more takeout meals each year. It's felt that some of these meals go to people who could come to the event but don't. Is this defeating the purpose of the Dinner?
 3. **Permanent Diaconate:** The diocese encourages recruitment of candidates for the 2020-2025 Class. Applications will be available in Fall/Winter 2019. Men must be less than age 60 by Fall 2020. Deacons serve the people of the parish and are to be a bridge in the community:
 - Visit the sick, homebound, poor and marginalized
 - Assist with Bible Study, Adult Education, Holy Hours & prayer, etc.
 - Connect with people who don't come to the pastor or parish for various reasons

V. Old & Current Business:

- The **Diocesan Convocation of Leadership** will be held in Fargo on Nov. 30--Dec. 1. The purpose is to develop leadership formation to help parishes evangelize. We have 17 parishioners and 4 staff from St. Mike's attending. This group will also be meeting Oct. 17 & Nov. 6.
- **St. Michael's Parish Feast Day** is Sat., Sept. 29. This is a solemnity for our parish. Bishop Folda will celebrate the Mass at 10 a.m. There will be a lunch served afterward.
- **St. Michael's Gala** is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 7 at the Alerus Ctr. There will not be a car raffle this year because there's not that much time before the event and we still don't have the state permit required.

- **Parish Long-Range Planning:** Parish Council members felt we should get going on this so Sheila Schreiner volunteered to call the strategic planner we used last time to perhaps meet with us as a start.
- **Electronic Sign:** Emily Wangen on the Education Board is working on this. She has all the information concerning the sign thus far. She has talked to the City Planner Brad Gengler. He said he'd get back to her.

VI. New Business:

- The **Women's Pregnancy Center** Banquet will be held Oct. 1 at 6:30 pm at the Alerus Ctr. St. Michael's donated \$1000 & has a table for 10. A sign-up sheet is available for parishioners who wish to go.
- The **Northlands Rescue Mission** is having its annual banquet on Oct. 29 at 6 pm at the Alerus Ctr. St. Michael's also donated \$1000 to sponsor a table for 10 and a sign-up sheet is available for parishioners who wish to attend.
- St. Michael's is still **recruiting volunteers for our Liturgical Ministries**, selling Scrip, etc. Especially needed are people for the 11 am & 5 pm Masses on Sunday. There will be a training session for all new Liturgical Ministers on Tues., Oct. 9 & again on Thurs., Oct. 11.
- **Sacristy Refurbishment Update:** Fr. Braun reported that the new cabinet/countertop in the Sacristy is close to completion. The parish might have Dennis Narlock refinish all the cabinetry in the Sacristy.
- Lowell Schweigert said that the **Precious Blood** (wine) ran out again at the 9 am Mass last Sunday. Not all communicants who wanted to receive it could do so. Fr. Braun will speak with those involved in the Liturgy.
- Council members asked Fr. Braun about where we are on the **lake property sale**. There is nothing new currently but the five years won't be up until 2020.

VII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- There being no further business, Sheila Schreiner motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Lowell Schweigert. Motion passed & meeting adjourned.
- Fr. Braun led the closing prayer.
- Next meeting: October 23

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen