

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
February 6, 2017 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Deacon Ed, John Companik, Lee Ann Egan, David Gray, Linda Hansen, Lynda Hemmerling, Alice Lewinski, Ted Markiewicz, Dan Price, Lynn Schmitt, Gib Wieser

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading an account of the martyrdom of St. Paul Miki, a Japanese Jesuit seminarian, and his companions in honor of their February 6 feast day. An opening prayer followed.

Linda updated the council on the deanery synod meeting scheduled for February 11th in St. Patrick Hall. Guests from approximately 15 parishes are expected to attend, and the ideas gathered at the deanery meeting will be discussed further at the diocesan synod to be held June 3rd at Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond. An opening Mass for the synod will be held the preceding day, June 2nd, at Notre Dame Parish in Michigan City. Fr. Marty, Alice (as chair of the parish pastoral council) and at least one other council member will attend the June events.

Gib updated the council on a review of the Spirituality and Worship Commission's part of the parish's strategic plan. The commission will focus on ministry job descriptions and new member orientations and may make appeals from the pulpit in an attempt to get more parishioners involved in certain ministries should the need arise.

Fr. Marty spent the final portion of the meeting updating the council on what has transpired since a group of parish staff, school officials and laypersons gave a presentation about the past, present and future of St. Michael School to representatives of the diocese. Following Fr. Marty's detailed update and a discussion among council members, Deacon Ed closed the meeting with a prayer.

The council will next meet March 13th at 7:00 PM in St. Patrick Hall with additional meetings scheduled for April 10th, May 8th and June 16th. Next year's parish pastoral council, which will include up to five new members who will go through the discernment process on April 20th and 27th, will begin in August.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cox