

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
March 13, 2017 minutes

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

Additional guests present: Operations Manager Gary Kriepps, members of the Finance Committee

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading from one of St. John Chrysostom's catechetical lessons to the newly baptized and by leading the council and guests in an opening prayer.

The bulk of the meeting was spent updating all present on what transpired earlier in the day at a meeting of parish staff, school officials, laypersons and diocesan officials, including Bishop Hying. Those four groups of people have been meeting and corresponding on a regular basis since St. Michael's presentation to the diocese in mid-January. Fr. Marty reported that today's meeting fostered a renewed sense of collaboration which he credited to letters from pastoral council and finance committee members to diocesan officials, as well as the presence of Fr. James Meade, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Chesterton, who provided a new perspective on the situation. Several parish council and finance committee members will work together to analyze the suggested improvements offered by the diocese, and their work should be completed in late April or early May.

In other news, Mike distributed an updated list of ministries in each commission and the contact information of individuals who lead each ministry. Some of those ministries will be involved in the wide variety of parish events scheduled for this summer and featured on the cover of this week's bulletin. Fr. Marty is interested in putting together a team of parishioners who may be willing to do "soft evangelization" at those events. He is also looking for names of individuals who may be willing to serve on the pastoral council or finance committee starting this summer. All present were asked to speak with one or two individuals and then submit their names to Fr. Marty in advance of the discernment sessions scheduled for April 20th and 27th at 7:00 PM in St. Patrick Hall.

Following the Hail Mary, the meeting adjourned. The pastoral council will meet April 10th and May 8th at 7:00 PM in one of the small meeting rooms in St. Patrick Hall and June 16th at a time to be determined at the rectory.