St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

October 16, 2023 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Robert, Barb Anderson, Lou Bufano, Nancy Finley, Linda Kinzer, Martha Kozub, Donna Krieps, Mike Morley, Bob Solorio, Connie Solorio, John Zaborske

Special Guest Present: Robbie Hansen

Fr. Marty began the meeting by reading from a treatise against Fabianus written by the legendary St. Fulgentius, who served as bishop of Ruspe in modern-day Tunisia during the 6th century. The theme of St. Fulgentius’s treatise was the Eucharist and how those who participate in the sacrifice of the Mass are made holy by the Body and Blood of Christ. An opening prayer followed.

At the council’s retreat on September 8-9, members discerned for specific council responsibilities for 2023-2024. As a result of that discernment, Linda Kinzer will serve as Chair for the coming year. Bob Solorio will serve as Vice-Chair and, along with Lou Bufano, will be liaison to the Stewardship Commission. Barb Anderson and John Zaborske will be liaisons to the Peace and Social Justice Commission. Nancy Finley and Martha Kozub will be liaisons to the Parish Life Commission. Donna Krieps and Mike Morley will be liaisons to the Education and Formation Commission. Devin Sanders and Connie Solorio will be liaisons to the Spirituality and Worship Commission.

Robbie Hansen then spoke with the council about his desire to establish an audio-visual ministry to serve the parish. Robbie would be willing to lead a group of people whose primary responsibilities would be to maintain existing audio-visual systems, troubleshoot audio or video issues at every Mass and handle other audio-visual needs for other parish events as needed. Barb, Mike, Bob and Connie asked additional questions about Robbie’s vision for the ministry, and those present felt this new ministry could appeal to younger parishioners and might help them to continue to attend Mass regularly and be active members of their parish. Fr. Marty suggested that two council members work with Robbie to craft a ministry description, and Martha and Bob agreed to help Robbie with this task. All present expressed their support for Robbie and his new ministry and believe it will be an asset to the parish in multiple ways.

Barb provided an update on the parish’s 150th anniversary and reported that the September 29 gala event at Gamba’s raised $40,598. All present felt that the gala event at Gamba’s was a great evening, and Barb thanked 150th anniversary committee members and council members for their work and support in making the event a success. She will continue to work to acquire sponsorships to support the many events the parish has planned for 2024, including an expanded Christmas concert on January 7. Council members were asked to assist with serving desserts during that event’s intermission. Barb also discussed the parish’s plans to publish a pictorial directory during 2024, and members of the parish’s 150th anniversary committee may speak at Masses one weekend in November to encourage parishioners to take family photos during the holidays which may be submitted to the parish for inclusion in the pictorial directory.

Fr. Marty then updated those present on the status of the GIFT campaign. To date the parish has received $3,752,206 in pledges from 342 households. Those households will be invited to attend a social gathering on December 1 in St. Patrick Hall to thank them for their generosity and update them on the progress of the campaign. At that time campaign organizers also will be very interested in hearing ideas from attendees for how the parish might encourage additional pledges, especially from the approximately 300 households who pledged in the most recent campaign but have not done so for the GIFT campaign. In spite of campaign efforts with parents of school children and parents of faith formation students, Lou noted that many people simply have not responded one way or another to the campaign. Council members were encouraged to hear, however, that the campaign has a 98% redemption rate among those households who have pledged.

The council then discussed the status of the parish’s welcoming committee. John described the work he and his wife do as a part of this very important ministry, and Fr. Marty and others were pleased that the welcoming committee provides important materials to new parishioners in person. Connie described her experience with using the parish’s online registration system and agreed to join Donna and Linda in helping to plan dinners at the rectory for new parishioners as part of an orientation committee which would work closely with members of the welcoming committee to ensure new parishioners receive personal welcomes and feel at home in the parish community.

As the meeting drew to a close, Linda reminded commission liaisons to meet with ministry leaders in their commissions to review the commission charters and plan for 2024. Veteran council members described the commission meeting process to council newcomers, and Linda also encouraged liaisons to ask ministry leaders for names of individuals who may be good candidates for discernment sessions on March 7 and March 14. Linda thanked everyone for their work to make the parish feast day on September 24 a great success, and all present are looking forward to meeting Elizabeth Munoz, who was recently hired as the parish’s new communications director.

Fr. Robert led those present in a closing prayer, and the council adjourned until its next meeting on Monday, November 20, in one of the meeting rooms in St. Patrick Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for December 14, January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13 and June 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox