

## St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

November 20, 2023 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Robert, Deacon Ron, Barb Anderson, Lou Bufano, Nancy Finley, Linda Kinzer, Donna Krieps, Devin Sanders, Bob Solorio, Connie Solorio, John Zaborske

For the second consecutive meeting, the council heard the words of St. Fulgentius to start the meeting. Fr. Marty read an excerpt from the Bishop of Ruspe's treatise on forgiveness and the end times which focused on justification in the sense of human beings being given the grace to do things God's way. An opening prayer followed.

Bob met with Martha Kozub and Robbie Hansen to discuss the parish's audio-visual ministry, which is still in its nascent stages. He distributed a ministry position description which listed responsibilities, talents, skill requirements and time commitments required of the ministry's leader(s). The ministry position description also discussed how the ministry would assist in the parish's audio, video, photography and social media efforts. Council members also learned of the ministry's strategic plan. Those present were very impressed by the work Bob, Martha and Robbie had done. Fr. Marty suggested that the trio develop a vision statement for publication in an upcoming bulletin and felt that the ministry likely belonged in the Stewardship Commission. Bob, Martha and Robbie will begin thinking about recruiting parishioners to become part of this ministry and developing training materials for them, and Bob felt it would be a good opportunity for students to get more involved in the parish.

Fr. Marty then updated those present on two fundraising efforts. The parish is experiencing a modest shortfall in this year's Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), but Fr. Marty said that was to be expected since the parish is in the middle of the GIFT campaign. John asked if the CSA has a firm end date, and Fr. Marty said that it ends in January 2024. Fr. Marty expects the parish to rebound next year and reach its 2024 CSA campaign goal. He also assured those present that the Finance Council regularly monitors CSA contributions.

The parish is preparing to host a reception for GIFT campaign donors on December 1. The evening will be an opportunity for the parish to thank donors for their generosity and for donors to share food and drink and fellowship. Those who attend will receive an update on the campaign and be asked to participate in an interactive and introspective exercise which will take them on a journey to determine how they felt inside after deciding to donate to the campaign. Once attendees have finished this journey, they will be equipped to share their "giving from the heart" experiences with parishioners who have not made a pledge yet. Fr. Marty asked council members to attend a dress rehearsal on November 27 and the event itself on December 1 to facilitate conversations at tables that evening and steer attendees in the right direction. Ben Dorris, Gary Krieps and Mike Morley will also attend the event and return to their table in the gathering space before and after Masses during the Advent and Christmas seasons to answer any campaign-related questions.

Parish choir members will attend the December 1 event to sing two songs as a preview of their Christmas concert on January 7. The expanded Christmas concert is part of the parish's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and Barb updated those present on what she and others on the anniversary committee have accomplished in recent weeks. The committee decided to move in a new direction with

regard to the pictorial directory. Instead of asking parishioners to submit photos of their families, parishioners instead will have the opportunity to have their photos taken in photo booths at special events throughout the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Those photos will be included in the directory, and parishioners who do not attend any of those events will then have the opportunity to submit their own photos if they so choose. Budgets have been set for various events, including the dinner-dance on February 10 which Devin plans to name in honor of St. Valentine. Fr. Marty encouraged Devin to place ads in the bulletin on December 17, 24 and 31 to drum up interest in that event, and those present discussed what type of music would be appropriate for the evening.

Fr. Marty gave a brief update on the roof/gutter issue, stating that major repairs have been completed and were covered by the parish's insurance. The parish is researching a rail system or other options to ensure that snow falls and melts from the roof safely and without harming people or structures. Fr. Marty is confident the roof and gutters will function properly this winter.

Connie led a discussion about the parish's welcoming committee and their plans to host a dinner and reception for new parishioners at the rectory in early 2024. Fr. Marty was open to this idea and will meet with Connie and Donna to finalize plans.

Linda reminded commission liaisons to schedule commission meetings, and many liaisons provided dates and times when they plan to meet with their respective commissions. Linda also reminded those present to ask for names of people who may be good candidates for the discernment process in March 2024 and to make sure ministry leaders have contacted those people who expressed interest in joining a ministry this fall.

Finally, Fr. Marty shared news about the diocese's new Office of Missionary Discipleship and Evangelization and asked select council members to fill out surveys sent out by that office.

After Fr. Robert led those present in a closing prayer, the council adjourned until its next meeting on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the rectory. Additional meetings are scheduled for January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8 and May 13 in one of the meeting rooms in St. Patrick Hall and on June 21 at the rectory.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox