St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

April 3, 2023 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Barbara Anderson, Nancy Finley, Linda Kinzer, Donna Krieps, Cindy Morley, Mike Morley, Devin Sanders

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading from St. Augustine’s sermon on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, an appropriate reading for the Monday of Holy Week. An opening prayer followed.

The Growing Into the Future Together campaign continues to march forward, and to date the parish has received approximately $3.6 million in pledges and is approximately 28% away from reaching its challenge goal of $5 million. While CCS is pleased that the parish has reached its $3.5 million goal, the parish plans to press forward toward its $5 million goal. Fr. Marty thinks it is very possible to meet that goal and hopes to be 15-20% away from reaching it by the end of the Easter season. Mike and others have sat in the gathering space after all Masses for several weeks now and have fielded questions and comments about the campaign from parishioners. Mike shared feedback from those visits, and all present were grateful to Mike and his colleagues for their availability and dedication in helping the campaign proceed as smoothly as possible.

Bishop McClory plans to make a pastoral visit to the parish on Saturday, May 20, and those present finalized a timeline for events that afternoon. Bishop McClory will arrive at 1 p.m. and meet with the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee for approximately one hour. He will be present for a meeting with commission and ministry leaders starting at approximately 2:15 p.m., after which he may visit the sick and homebound from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Bishop McClory’s visit will conclude with him presiding at the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord. Fr. Marty and Linda distributed copies of the parish’s 2022 synod document and the parish’s three-year synod action plan which includes spiritual formation for liturgical ministers, a communication plan and an outreach campaign. Those documents will be a primary focus of the council’s May 8 meeting in advance of Bishop McClory’s visit 12 days later.

Discernment sessions took place in March and resulted in Lou Bufano, Martha Kozub, Connie Solorio and Bob Solorio becoming new Parish Pastoral Council members starting in August, with Devin joining them for his second three-year term. Cindy will depart the council at the end of this year’s term, and she agreed to sit for an exit interview per the council’s charter. Lou, Martha, Connie and Bob will be invited to join the current council at its May meeting, and Nancy and others felt it was very important to make new council members feel welcome and included. To that end, a transition team will be formed.

Those present then spent considerable time reviewing duties and responsibilities of commission liaisons and how the council might operate even more effectively in 2023-2024 and beyond. Fr. Marty felt that liaisons should not feel the need to report everything going on in their commission’s ministries at council meetings but rather focus on how those ministries are working to accomplish the goals put forth in their commission charters and in the parish’s pastoral plan. He suggested liaisons meet with leaders of their commission’s ministries on a quarterly or biennial basis to review those documents and to stick to the timelines put forth in them. Council members felt this was a good plan, and many of them shared opinions on how the council operated in 2022-2023. Mike stressed the need for a full complement of council members, which should occur in 2023-2024, and Linda said the council works well together and members feel comfortable sharing opinions on a variety of topics. Devin was grateful that the council has returned to a more normal structure in the years following the pandemic. Barb and Cindy shared thoughts on how new members could decide which commission is best for them and which veteran parish council member they should work with, and Fr. Marty stated that often those matters are decided at the council’s annual retreat, which is scheduled for September 8-9.

Cindy has been working with the parish’s Welcoming Committee and the Stewardship Commission and shared updates on what those two groups have been doing in recent week. The Welcoming Committee hopes to have dinners for new parishioners this summer at the rectory, while the Stewardship Commission is preparing a series of videos promoting the parish’s various ministries with plans to show them in September leading up to the parish’s feast day. Those present felt that one video shown one weekend at Mass followed up by brief speeches from ministry leaders at Masses on other weekends would be an appropriate course of action.

Barb updated those present on the first meeting of a committee formed to plan events commemorating the parish’s 150th anniversary. The consensus of the planning committee was to have a kickoff dinner/dance this September, the proceeds of which would be used to help fund other anniversary events planned for 2024 and 2025. The anniversary planning committee will meet bimonthly for the foreseeable future, and updates will be provided at future council meetings.

Finally, with Easter just days away, Fr. Marty announced the return of the parish Easter egg hunt, which will be on April 16, the Second Sunday of Easter. School and Faith Formation leadership and families will join forces to help organize the hunt, and those present are hoping for good weather and a good turnout of children.

After praying the Hail Mary, the council adjourned until its next meeting on May 8 at 7 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms in St. Patrick Hall. The last meeting of the 2022-2023 term is scheduled for June 23 at the rectory.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox