St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

August 28, 2023 Minutes

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

Special Guests Present: Jesica Cherry, Gib Wieser

The St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council began its 2023-2024 year by meeting on the feast of St. Augustine, so Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading from some of St. Augustine’s writings. An opening prayer followed.

Linda Kinzer welcomed those present, especially Fr. Robert Ross and the council’s four new members: Lou Bufano, Martha Kozub, Bob Solorio and Connie Solorio. Linda also announced that Joel Palaschak, a council member in 2022-2023, resigned his position, leaving the council with 11 members for the 2023-2024 year.

Gib Wieser of the Stewardship Commission spoke about the parish’s ministry month which began the weekend of August 26-27. Each weekend from now until the feast day on September 23-24, several ministries will have tables in the gathering space where current ministry members can meet parishioners who are interested in joining their ministries. The Stewardship Commission decided against having ministry members speaking at Mass, and showing a video in the church was cost-prohibitive, but the Stewardship Commission is running brief videos of ministries on televisions in the gathering space. Gib credited former parish communications director Megan Jones for her work in creating the videos. Gib also discussed ministry cards which parishioners may fill out if they are interested in joining a ministry. He explained the process by which he charts new and returning ministry members and the process by which new members are contacted. Connie Solorio was concerned about new members being contacted in a timely fashion, and Gib assured everyone that new members would be contacted by a ministry leader as quickly as possible. The council thanked Gib and the Stewardship Commission for their work and look forward to working with them on the feast day weekend.

The feast day weekend is September 23-24, and a small group of council members agreed to help Gib set up banners in the church on September 23 around 12 noon. Additional council members will help with the events of September 24, including exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 11:30 Mass, benediction and evening prayer that evening, and a chicken dinner following benediction and evening prayer. The vigil Mass on September 23 will be at 4 p.m. due to the luau event that evening which begins at 5 p.m.

Jesica Cherry, who is the parish’s Director of Finance and Accounting, discussed the parish’s financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The parish ended the fiscal year owing nothing to the diocese, and council members appreciated Jesica’s work in preparing the report as well as her detailed explanations of how money is reported and how financial figures compare to the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2022. The council spent time discussing how various grants and scholarship programs affect the school’s financial picture, and council members were pleased to hear that school enrollment increased from 224 students in 2022-2023 to 234 students for 2023-2024. Council members signed a form indicating their approval of the financial report and were told that members of the parish’s Finance Committee have done the same. The financial report will be included in the annual parish stewardship report which will be made available to parishioners later this year.

Barb Anderson updated those present on the work of the parish’s 150th anniversary committee. The gala event at Gamba’s is sold out, and committee members are working on finalizing seating arrangements for guests. Committee members have secured more than 10 corporate sponsors and have secured more than 20 silent auction items and 2 luxury vacations which will be auctioned off live at the gala event on September 29. Barb expects the parish to make at least $40,000 at the event, and she asked council members for assistance with various gala preparation tasks, including donating bottles of wine which will be awarded to participants who purchase wine corks in a special grab bag event at the gala.

Fr. Marty reported that the parish’s GIFT campaign will be revived in several ways this fall. Families with children in the parish school or faith formation program will be reminded of the importance of the campaign during parent meetings. To date, 14 school families have donated to the GIFT campaign. Other parishioners who pledged and donated to the last capital campaign but have not done so for the GIFT campaign will receive phone calls inviting them to donate. The rectory will host receptions for new parishioners this fall as well. To date the parish is 26% away from its challenge goal of $5 million, but Fr. Marty is hopeful the fall revival of the campaign will help raise enough funds for the school to be air conditioned in time for the start of the 2024-2025 academic year.

In other matters, Barb recently spoke with a representative from Habitat for Humanity who told her that Habitat for Humanity is working with Home Depot and other organizations to build a home for a military veteran who may need a new residence. The council suggested asking members of the Good Samaritans or Knights of Columbus if they know a military veteran parishioner who might be a candidate. Linda recently spoke with Robbie Hansen, who said that he would be interested in starting an audio-video ministry. Those present agreed to discuss his idea in more detail at an upcoming meeting and to have a larger discussion on the merits of the parish continuing to livestream Sunday Mass. Devin Sanders and John Zaborske had questions about collection boxes at Mass and overall Mass attendance, and Fr. Marty said that collections and attendance have remained steady this summer. The council also discussed how to properly minister to people who beg for money on parish grounds after Sunday Masses, and council members were asked to pray for the success of the latest search for a new parish communications director after unforeseen setbacks prevented the parish from filling the position as soon as Fr. Marty had hoped.

The council looked ahead to its annual retreat which will be held September 8-9. Fr. Marty explained the schedule of events and said that former council chair Ted Markiewicz will attend the Saturday session and facilitate discussions that day. Bob Solorio asked about liaisons and their roles and was told that more information about liaisons and their roles is in the parish pastoral council charter document and will be provided and explained in detail during the retreat. Additional council meetings for the 2023-2024 year are scheduled for October 16, November 20, December 14, January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8, May 13 and June 21. Following the Hail Mary, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox