St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

January 8, 2024 Minutes

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

The council’s first meeting of 2024 took place on the last day of the Christmas season. During the Christmas season the Office of Readings featured writings which were particular to the many rich feasts of the season, including St. Quodveltdeus’s sermon on the Feast of the Holy Innocents. On today’s Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Fr. Marty read from a baptism-themed reflection by St. Gregory Nazianzen. An opening prayer followed.

Linda began the meeting by wishing everyone a happy new year, especially since it’s the parish’s 150th anniversary year. Those who attended the choir’s Christmas concert felt the event went well, and Fr. Marty was impressed by the display of choir photos Nancy prepared for attendees to see. A full calendar of events for the 150th year is available on the parish web site and was printed in the January 7 bulletin.

The next special event of the 150th anniversary year is a St. Valentine’s Day dinner/dance on February 10. Devin and others have been planning the evening which will include live music from Fr. Gregory Bim-Merle, David Herr and others and demonstrations of certain ballroom dances before guests are invited to cut a rug themselves. The event is being promoted in the parish bulletin and may be promoted at local dance studios as well. Devin and others will be in the gathering space in the coming weeks to sell tickets to the event, and Fr. Marty asked Nancy to prepare a photo display showcasing various parish parties over the years for dinner/dance attendees to see at the event.

Bob reported that the parish’s new audio-visual ministry has put announcements in the bulletin in recent weeks but has yet to receive any interest from parishioners willing to join. Those present agreed that the ministry should be promoted more, perhaps by having someone speak about it from the ambo at an appropriate time during Mass. Those present also debated the merits of a photo booth or other photographic equipment that might be useful to the A-V ministry at parish events or helpful to the parish in the creation of a parish pictorial directory.

Fr. Marty reported that the GIFT campaign has received $3,752,000 in pledges thus far. Ben Dorris, Gary Krieps and Mike Morley were stationed in the gathering space during the Advent and Christmas seasons to answer any campaign-related questions, and their table will remain there for the foreseeable future. Donna asked if the December 1 event for donors has started to bear fruit, and Fr. Marty said that the parish is still focusing on obtaining pledges from parishioners who have pledged in the past but have not done so yet for this campaign.

Donna reported that seven new parishioners have accepted an invitation to dine with Fr. Marty and Fr. Robert at the rectory. She and others on the Welcoming Committee would like to reach out to new parishioners who received an invitation but were not provided with phone numbers of those new parishioners. Fr. Marty expects that situation to be rectified in the very near future.

Lou reported that super raffle tickets have been mailed to parishioners, and Fr. Marty reminded those present that the super raffle is a parish event, not a school fundraiser.

The council then focused on its action items, including discernment which will take place in early March. The council will need four or five new members to begin three-year terms in July 2024, and other committees will also need new members. Various commissions have had meetings or will have meetings to review their charters with ministry leaders. Nancy reported the Parish Life Commission will meet on January 18 to complete that task. Fr. Marty met with the Stewardship Commission and will meet with Lou and Bob to discuss the formation of a charter document for that commission. Devin reported that the Spirituality and Worship Commission completed that task at two recent meetings. As a liaison to the Education and Formation Commission, Donna asked if Fr. Robert might be available to assist with the Theology on Tap program since he is in the target age range of that program.

Before the meeting adjourned, Nancy discussed a specific situation within the 150th anniversary committee. Fr. Marty and other council members recognized her extreme disappointment and vowed to seek a remedy for the matter presented.  In part, to that end, committee members who were present felt that the committee should start meeting on a more regular basis as major events of 2024 draw closer. Fr. Robert then led those present in the Our Father as a closing prayer.

The council will next meet Monday, February 12, at 7 p.m. in one of the small meeting rooms of St. Patrick Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for March 11, April 8, May 13 and June 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox