

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

May 13, 2024 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Robert, Barb Anderson, Lou Bufano, Nancy Finley, Linda Kinzer, Martha Kozub, Mike Morley, Devin Sanders, John Zaborske

Incoming Members Present: Edward "Mick" Adamson, Lisa Codo, Barbara Judge, Alice Lewinski

Very Special Guest Present: Seminarian Will O'Donnell

Fr. Marty began the meeting by reading from a passage about the time between Ascension and Pentecost which was attributed to a 6th-century African author not named St. Fulgentius. An opening prayer followed.

The May council meeting traditionally serves as a bridge between two council years, and at this meeting the sitting council invited incoming council members to join them. Mick Adamson, Lisa Codo, Barb Judge and Alice Lewinski introduced themselves to the group and shared details about history with the parish. Sitting members and clergy did the same. Those present also welcomed Will O'Donnell, a seminarian who is spending the summer at the parish, and wished him well on his journey to the priesthood.

Barb provided updates on events associated with the parish's 150th anniversary. The 150th Anniversary Committee is currently focusing on the Schererville Festival and Parade on June 8. That day the parish will have a booth at the festival where attendees will have the opportunity to purchase Mega Raffle tickets and learn more about the parish. The parish also will have a float in the parade that afternoon, and plans are being made to have parishioners walk alongside the float and two classic cars and distribute invitations for parade-goers to attend the parish's 150th anniversary celebration on September 29. Fr. Marty showed samples of vestments which are currently being made for the liturgy that day. The vestments will feature images of angels from the church's stained glass windows. Plans for other anniversary-related events are progressing, and Lou offered to help with those events as he is able.

Devin updated those present on the parish's wine-tasting event on September 8 from 3-6 p.m. in St. Patrick Hall. More than 40 different vintages of wine and select beers and bourbons will be available for guests to sample. Gamba Ristorante will provide food for the affair, and guests will have the opportunity to purchase bottles or cases of wine for their personal collections. Ticket prices have not yet been finalized, but guests can expect to pay around \$75 for a full ticket and being considered at a lesser cost is a designated driver ticket, with proceeds going to the parish's GIFT campaign. Devin is researching the opportunity to provide attendees with parish-logoed wine glasses for the occasion.

Linda discussed the parish's latest welcoming dinner which was held at the rectory on April 26. Fr. Marty shared a picture of the evening which showed attendees having a wonderful time. Six new parishioners attended, and Mike thanked Connie Solorio for her work with this project. The parish is planning to have welcome dinners on a quarterly basis with the next one likely scheduled for fall.

Fr. Marty provided additional information about the parish's role in this summer's Eucharistic Pilgrimage. The Marian Route begins at the headwaters of the Mississippi River in Minnesota and

wends its way toward Indianapolis over the next two months. The parish will host a Mass for pilgrims and parishioners alike on July 2 at 8 a.m. in the main church. The Mass will replace the usual 7 a.m. daily Mass in the chapel. After the Mass pilgrims and parishioners will walk together with the Blessed Sacrament in procession for a period of time until the pilgrims continue on their way toward Indianapolis. Fr. Marty is hopeful that parishioners will volunteer to help carry the canopy under which the Blessed Sacrament will reside on its journey through Schererville.

Fr. Marty also updated those present on the CSA campaign and shared the good news that the parish has received approximately 90% of its \$112,000 goal in pledges thus far. Those present shared their experiences with various giving methods this year and are pleased that the parish is close to reaching its goal.

Lou reported that the Stewardship Commission is nearly done completing its charter, and those present were appreciative of the work he and members of the commission completed in the past year.

Linda distributed copies of the council's charter document to new members so that they would have time to review it before the new council's retreat on September 6-7. Additional meetings in the 2024-2025 council year will be held in 2024 on September 9 (if deemed necessary following the retreat), October 14, November 9 and December 17, and in 2025 on January 13, February 10, March 10, April 7, May 12 and June 20.

Linda joins Devin, John and Donna Kriebs as council members whose terms are expiring this year. She thanked everyone for their hard work over the years and said it was an honor to serve as chair for the last two years. Those present thanked Linda, Devin, John and Donna for their service and look forward to seeing them at the council's last meeting of the year, which is scheduled for June 21 at the rectory. The meeting adjourned after Father Robert led those present in the Hail Mary, an appropriate conclusion for a meeting held on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox