

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

February 11, 2025 Minutes

Members Present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Robert, Joan Bullock, Lisa Codo, Barbara Judge, Martha Kozub, Jim Lesniak, Alice Lewinski, Bob Solorio, Connie Solorio

The council's February meeting was held on the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, which also happens to be the anniversary of Bishop McClory's episcopal ordination in 2020. As such, Fr. Marty opened the proceedings by reading from St. Bernadette's first person account of the Marian apparition she witnessed in Lourdes, France on February 11, 1858. An opening prayer followed.

Fr. Marty reported that more than 100 people braved snowy conditions to attend the GIFT Campaign open house on January 25. Some attendees extended or increased their pledges while others made memorial gifts to help fund the installation of stained glass windows in the new parishioner service center. There will be additional endowment opportunities for locations in that facility, but construction cannot begin on it until the entire \$3 million cost of the project has been pledged and at least \$2 million of those funds have been received. Currently the parish needs an additional \$800,000 in pledges to reach its \$3 million goal. The parish plans to reach out to newly-registered parishioners and ask them to participate in the campaign, and all parishioners will have the opportunity to view a presentation about the campaign on the parish's YouTube page in the coming weeks and increase their contributions if they are so inclined.

Another January event was the parish's semi-annual welcome dinner at the rectory. Approximately 15 new parishioners joined clergy and a handful of long-time parishioners for food and fellowship. Fr. Marty and Connie were encouraged by the new parishioners, which included a mix of several young couples as well as single older adults, and look forward to their involvement in the parish.

It is quite possible that the parish will welcome additional new parishioners later this year after the results of the diocesan strategic planning process are announced. Fr. Marty noted that 1250 people attended Masses on the weekend of February 7-8 which is a higher number than usual.

New parishioners may register at the office any time or after Mass on one Sunday per month. As liaisons of the Parish Life Commission, Martha and Lisa noted that members of the Welcoming Committee would prefer to have their registration Sunday not be held on the same day as donut Sunday if at all possible. In Education and Formation Commission matters, Barb and Jim plan to meet with ministry leaders in the coming weeks, and Jim noted that the parish school is having a hard time retaining 7th and 8th grade students as senior servers. Joan had no updates from the Peace and Social Justice Commission. Connie and Alice reported that the Spirituality and Worship Commission plans to resume its ministry of the week bulletin profiles in the spring, and Fr. Marty reminded all present of the parish's morning of reflection for liturgical ministers on February 21.

The terms of four council members will end in June, as will the terms of others who have served on various parish leadership groups in the past year. The parish will hold discernment sessions on March 11 and 18 and is still soliciting names of parishioners who may be good fits for these boards, councils and committees. These parishioners soon will receive a letter from Fr. Marty inviting them to the

discernment sessions, and in the coming weeks Fr. Marty plans to mention discernment in his bulletin column and from the chair during announcements at Mass. Bob asked if council members whose first terms will expire can discern again and Fr. Marty replied affirmatively. Jim asked if council members whose terms do not expire need to be present on March 11 or 18 and Fr. Marty said it would be helpful if some are present at the March 18 session. Connie brought up the idea of discerning to members of the Comforting Chefs ministry and she is hopeful some of them will choose to participate.

Finally, those present had a discussion about the parish's annual festival, and members of the parish council plan to meet with festival leadership in early March for an update on this year's event.

Fr. Robert closed the meeting by leading those present in praying the Glory Be. Additional meetings are scheduled for March 4, April 6 and May 11 at 7 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms in St. Patrick Hall and on June 19 at the rectory.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Cox