

St. Michael's Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2015

Attendance: Deacon Frank Herlihy; Council Members: Annette Newcomb, Pat Ramsey, Bob Rugar, Gayle Bush; Members of the Parish: Helen and Bryan Taylor, Terry and Pat Taylor; Bill Ramsey, Marty Lemmo, Erika Fisher, Mary Corcoran, Natasha Corcoran, Monica Fish, Nancy Salazar, Joanne Schaefer, Fran Cassella, Joanne Chaplek, Frank Bader

Meeting was opened at 6:32 p.m. All members of the public were asked to join the Council Members around the table. They were all given a copy of the agenda.

Opening Prayer: Deacon Frank

Approval of the July minutes: Approved as read.

Deacon Frank's Report:

Deacon Frank stated that he has drafted a letter to Chancellor Elizabeth Simcoe requesting approval to proceed with a project to repair the outside veneer of the church's narthex. Engineers have examined the structure and made recommendations. A copy of those recommendations has been sent to Ms. Simcoe.

Issues Requiring Immediate Attention:

Annette Newcomb informed the Council members of the death of former Council member Larry LoMonico. A card was passed around for signatures.

New Business

Erica Walker stated that she had e-mailed Annette requesting information on the Pastoral Council. She received a copy of the Pastoral Council's Policies and Procedures booklet before the meeting to help her better formulate any questions she had. All members present were given a copy of this manual.

Ms. Walker asked about the role of the Council, its member's term limits and how people were chosen for the Council. All questions were answered per the current guidelines. Four members who are over the term limit are presently serving on the Council per Father Tony's request as we currently lack the number of suggested members (9-12). The manual states that the Council may not meet without the presence of a priest. Deacon Frank stated that he is serving as the interim administrator in this situation so meetings are allowed. He felt that there were issues that needed attention that necessitated a meeting

It was decided that Deacon Frank would contact Frank Berning, the facilitator for the Discernment Process, to set up a date for the fall. The discernment process was discussed. Gayle Bush and Pat Ramsey described the 4 hour session as a spiritual experience where they were made to see and understand what was expected of them as a Pastoral Council member. It was a process where one received wisdom and insight about their responsibilities. Both felt the experience was difficult to describe and stated one had to go through it to really comprehend the process. Each member makes his/her own decision as to whether or not to become an active member of the Pastoral Council.

All decisions that are made by the Council must be unanimous. Our role is advisory.

A lively discussion ensued concerning the status of Father Tony. Annette has called the Bishop twice since Father Tony left and has received no replies. Others at the meeting have also called the Bishop's office with no response.

Annette stated that as a representative of the Pastoral Council and the Board of Trustees she when to Albany to ask for guidance concerning the issue of Paul Smith living in the rectory. Father Tony was removed from St. Michael's on June 1, 2015. Annette stated that there must have been other concerns beside Paul that caused the diocese to remove Father Tony. No one has been privileged to that information; thus the rumors. Annette was charged with calling the Bishop again.

Parish Picnic and 60th Anniversary Celebration

The members of the Council reported on the responses they received from the parishioners concerning the picnic and the 60th celebration. The majority of the parishioners who responded stated that they would like to have the picnic as usual and that the 60th Anniversary Celebration be put on hold until Father Tony returns. Their wishes will be honored. The announcement of these events will be made on the week-end of August 29-30 when Annette addresses the congregation at all of the Masses.

The picnic will be held on Sunday, September 27th. Bill Ramsey stated he talked to Pat McCabe, Finance Committee Chair about money to set up games for the children at the picnic. Further discussion needs to take place as to where the money will come from to support this endeavor. The K of C was offered as a source. Nancy Salazar agreed to be in charge of the event. She usually has a budget of \$500.

Phyllis Lawrence Retirement Recognition

Annette Newcomb announced that Phyllis Lawrence, our church secretary for many years, retired in November 2014. It was decided that she will be recognized at the picnic and something more formal will occur for her when Father Tony comes back. A cake was suggested as a memento at the picnic. Something more substantive, a quilt perhaps, will be considered when we have something more formal.

Megan Bannon

Deacon Frank stated that Megan Bannon is working with our music ministry as a music intern this summer. She will be with us until she goes back to college in the fall. We discussed if it would be appropriate to give her a gift. Sally Scuderi will be contacted to see what would be appropriate as she is her supervisor.

Strategic Plan

The review of the Strategic Plan was tabled until the next meeting because of the time. Copies were made available for any one interested in looking at it.

The attending public was thanked for their input and encouraged to attend the fall discernment to better serve their parish.

Executive Session

The members of the Council went into executive session to go over the speech that Annette will deliver to the parish on August 29-30. The contents of this was agreed upon by the Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Our next Pastoral Council Meeting will be September 15 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Ramsey and Annette Newcomb
Acting Secretaries.