

St. Michael's Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2016

Meeting began promptly at 6:30 pm. In attendance were Father Tony, Ray Aurelia, Gayle Bush, Mary Corcoran, Natasha Corcoran, Bill Ramsey, Nancy Salazar, Joanne Schaefer, Erica Walker, Mary Ellen Wood and Helen Taylor. Mary Ellen Stevens and Frank Bader were absent. Two new parish trustees were also in attendance-Marty Lemmo and Terry Taylor.

OPENING PRAYER: was led by Father Tony.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: There were no minutes from the December 1 2015 transitional meeting as this was the first meeting with the new pastoral members gathering together. Two former pastoral council members were in attendance at the December 1 meeting to help with this transition. Father Tony, did however, touch briefly on items discussed at this meeting. No secretary had been appointed at that time. However, I did find my personal notes taken from the December 1 meeting and the topics that were discussed were: Having an organizational flow chart regarding committees etc.-no subcommittee, vision for the future e.g. a 5 year plan having an advisory/consultative committee, selecting a youth advocate. Father went over the financial report, Terry Taylor and Marty Lemmo were introduced as new parish trustees. There was discussion about the school assessment amount and the Bishop's Appeal arrears, the gathering space structure problems needing repair, a dedicated Building and Grounds Committee (which was formed and is meeting regularly) with a focus on such urgent matters such as replacing of the school building windows (which are the original ones from when the school was constructed in the mid 1950's). Responsibility of the chairperson of the pastoral counsel: they are the coordinator/organizer responsible for sending out the agenda, speaking to the parish and attend finance committee meetings.

OLD BUSINESS: Father Tony reported updates on the replacement of the windows with more energy efficient ones. NYSEDA is going to be contacted about doing an energy audit and to see if there are any rebates or incentives currently in place. .

PASTOR'S REPORT: Father held a staff meeting today. Father discussed Christmas masses and schedule. This past Christmas Day there were three Christmas eve Masses and two Masses on Christmas Day. There was discussion as to the attendance and how many masses should be scheduled in the future – more people attend the Christmas Eve masses and fewer attend the Christmas Day masses. Having two Masses on Christmas Day was clearly not necessary, one Mass would be sufficient. However, this year, 2016, Christmas falls on a Sunday, so the usual Sunday Mass schedule will be followed. Father stated that Easter Sunday is March 27th. It was noted that Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) Mass was not generally well attended, perhaps due to the length of the Mass when RCIA is conducted. There will be no 5:30 pm mass Easter night. The Easter Vigil Mass has to be said after sundown. For Easter Sunday, however, Father is considering adding a third Mass at 8:00 am and 10:00 am, possibly adding a 12:00 noon Mass because of the larger Easter day Mass attendance. Members thought that possibly the noon mass would be less attended because of Easter family functions being held around this hour. No definite decision was made at this time.

Some discussion was held about the possible changes in other parish's leadership as a potential factor in our Mass attendance overall. Father Tony indicated that the pastor at Sacred Heart in Lake George will be retiring this year and that he may not be replaced. (the parish may have a Parish Life Director appointed in lieu of a priest pastor). He explained that some parishes i.e. in Corinth, Luzerne, Queensbury and Lake George have already started to rotate priests as a means of introduction to those 'clustered' parishes which will only be served by two priests (currently Fr. Swain in Corinth/Lake Luzerne and Fr. Busch in Queensbury). Father also relayed some other changes that have been put into place in recent months e.g., in the past there were 13 to 14 deaneries, now there are just even vicariates. St. Michael's is currently affiliated or clustered with St. Mary's

in Glens Falls and St. Mary's/St. Paul's in Hudson Falls and St. Joseph's in Fort Edward. No changes in parish leadership are anticipated for these parishes at the present time.

Lent is just around the corner. Father indicated that he is planning on having 2 evening masses during Lent instead of in the morning. They would be Tuesdays and Fridays at 5:30 pm instead of at 8:30 am. The remainder of the days would remain at the usual 8:30 AM time as usual. This change would only be during Lent and return to the regular schedule immediately after Easter.

NEW BUSINESS: Ray Aurelia who is on the new Buildings and Grounds committee reported that he did extensive research with regard to the gas and electric rates/fees from energy supply companies to secure the best possible rates for the parish. Bids were sent out to several companies for their rates. Some offer significant savings should be realized once all the information is received and a decision is made to switch to a different energy supplier. (National Grid will always remain the billing and service agency). Ray is waiting to hear back from some companies before further discussion will take place. Father expressed his gratitude to Ray for his assistance and proficiency in this area.

Choosing a youth representative: One or two will be selected. Several names have been suggested. Jim Gorman is to approach the parents regarding this.

Nancy Salazar spoke regarding the "Year of Mercy" retreat she attended held in Whitehall with Father Michael Gaitley. She handed out a pamphlet from the retreat. A brief discussion took place. Father Tony will follow up on this possibility for St. Michael's

ISSUES REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:

1. Erica Walker was chosen as the Chairperson
2. Helen Taylor was selected as Secretary

Father explained the responsibilities of each position.

Father explained the purpose and responsibilities of the pastoral council and also of the financial committee. He mentioned that the Pastor has to be present at all pastoral council meetings. It was questioned if the finance committee provides any minutes. Father explained why there are no minutes distributed but did however mention the annual report or the Statement of Financial Position that is produced once a year showing breakdowns of total expenses and operational costs.

60th Anniversary Celebration: Mary Corcoran suggested looking into the Tower Restaurant located on Glen Street (in the Traveler's Building). One of our parish members is the owner/operator. Father Tony said that the celebration should take place in early autumn, around the parish Feast day. A committee is to be formed to coordinate the celebrations. This committee will consist of 1 K of C member, 1 Rosarian, 2 Pastoral Council members, plus Father Tony. A Celebration Mass is planned to include the Bishop(s) and former priests and religious sisters who have served at St. Michael's will be invited.

Dates for future meetings: Feb. 16, March 15, April 19, May 17 at 6:30 pm in the school meeting room.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Taylor, Secretary