

St. Michael's Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2016

OPENING PRAYER

Meeting began approximately at 6:30 pm with an opening prayer led by Father Tony. In attendance were council members Frank Bader, Gayle Bush, Mary Corcoran, Kristen Langdon, William Ramsey, Nancy Salazar, Joanne Schaefer, Mary Ellen Stevens, Helen Taylor, Erika Walker and Mary Ann Wood.

Absent were Ray Aurelia and Natasha Corcoran.

Trustees: Marty Lemmo was in attendance, Terry Taylor was absent.

Also in attendance was Mrs. Langdon, accompanying her daughter Kristen, the newest member of the council serving as youth representative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- from January 19, 2016. Minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS-no items were presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Father Tony reported further on the progress and decision regarding the energy provider for St. Michael's. Blue Rock Energy is the new provider that was chosen. Father mentioned that by next week we would know exact figures of the cost savings. Actual numbers will appear in the bulletin. He also added that the parish asked for reimbursement for the difference in cost from the previous provider if possible and will pursue this.

NEW BUSINESS

Erika Walker (pastoral council chairperson) reported that a letter, dated Feb. 12, 2016, was sent to Bishop Scharfenberger. The letter was signed by Martin Lemmo and Terry Taylor -Trustees, Pat McCabe-Finance Committee Chair, and Erika Walker-Pastoral Council Chair. This letter explained that the additional costs incurred by the Church during the time of Father Tony's absence from June to October, 2015. These additional expenses are a burden to our parish therefore the letter requests that the diocese recognize the burden of these expenses and to reduce our Bishop's Appeal commitment by \$18,264. This is the combined total of the replacement of priests of \$6,714 and \$11,550 for the temporary administrator's salary. We are currently waiting for a reply.

A question referencing Candlemas Day, blessing of the throats, was brought up.

Father reminded us to spread the word about March Madness fundraiser.

Discussion was held with regard to the welcoming message that takes place prior to the beginning of Mass. Some parishioners question why we have to have it. Father said he would look at it and make it briefer.

Nancy Salazar mentioned the presentation that Fr. Gaitley conducted last Sunday at Annunciation in Queensbury. Fr. Tony said he was unable to get him to come to St. Michaels.

He said he's tried retreats and Bible studies in the past and there was not much of a turn out. There are several presentations scheduled during Lent; just check the special Lenten program flyer available in church and always online at the parish website.

Also, it was announced that there is a special “33 Days to Morning Glory” small group retreat scheduled at St. Michaels beginning Feb. 29 with John O’Brien leading the prayer group. It will conclude with the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was also presented by a special bulletin insert last weekend.

ISSUES REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

1. Update on Building & Grounds/Utilities-refer to the Pastor's Report
2. Ministries sign ups needed-Father reported that only two or three responses were received. Discussion followed with ideas of how to get a better response. They included possibly approaching someone and allowing them a trial period. Shadowing was also suggested. There is a serious need for more people in the parish to get out of the pew and help out at Mass more often.
3. Youth ministry saw few to no responses. Kristen Langdon, our new youth representative serving on our council, was welcomed. She is involved in other ministries within the Church. She was asked to put out feelers to her friends and peers for their input. Her suggestions were most appreciated. Two additional parents are to be approached concerning the teens becoming youth representatives.
4. Relative to ministries-it was mentioned that a lector questioned the possibility of lectors sitting in the pews during the mass as opposed to sitting up on the altar. Concerns were mentioned relative to church rubrics and lectors falling, having to go on the altar several times.
5. Marathon Breakfast-is to be held on Sunday Feb. 28 from 8am to 12 noon. Sign-up sheet for donations and volunteers is located in the hallway of the school.
6. Holy Week & Easter Events-Friday Feb. 19 is the first Lenten Soup Supper hosted by the Knights of Columbus in the parish hall from 5:30 to 6:30pm.
7. There has not been much of a response to the Easter Sunday Poll regarding an extra mass on Easter Sunday. A reminder that it appears in the Sun. bulletin and can be filled out and dropped in the basket.
8. Bereavement Appreciation Celebration-A special bereavement appreciation dinner for the bereavement committee has been held in the past. Father would like to have another one, not to have it as an annual event, but expressed how nice the last one was. Their hard work, time and dedication are very much appreciated and it is so nice that we can offer this to our parish family in their time of sorrow.
9. 60th Anniversary Celebration-Discussion took place offering many ideas and suggestions. Some said that some parishioners wished to have it in the parish hall. The 50th celebration was held at the K of C banquet hall in Queensbury, which is no longer available. A luncheon or a brunch was suggested and cost was a concern. Father stressed that no decisions whatsoever have been made, neither date, nor place has been decided, and this celebration is presently in the beginning stages. All ideas and suggestions will be considered. A committee for the event is now in place consisting one from the K of C, one from the Rosary Altar, and two from Pastoral Council. Father wishes to have a celebratory mass and a reception in the parish hall. Father will gather the committee soon to begin making plans.
10. Dates for future meetings-Tuesday at 6:30pm. March 15, April 19, May 17

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at approximately at 8pm

Respectfully submitted
Helen Taylor, Secretary