

St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2016

I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

President Loren Liepold called the meeting to order. Fr. Braun then led the opening prayer.

II. Routine & Organization Matters

- **Roll Call: Present:** Fr. Braun, Fr. D'Aco, Loren Liepold, Richard Hauschulz, Kevin Fee, Mary Ann Votava, Holly Brown-Borg, Robert Kunze, Joe Kotrba, Kevin Bosh, Tom Helbling, Casey Hutton, Mary Ann Whalen
Absent: Fr. Haman, Judy Jahnke, Lori Swinney
Members then went around the table & introduced themselves.
- **Additions to the Agenda:** None
- **Approval of Minutes:** Holly Brown-Borg motioned that the June minutes be approved. Seconded by Robert Kunze. Motion carried.
- **Election of Officers:** Richard Hauschulz motioned that Loren Liepold continue as president. Seconded by Holly Brown-Borg. Motion approved. Holly Brown-Borg motioned and Richard Hauschulz seconded that Mary Ann Votava be vice-president. Motion approved. However, Mary Ann will not be able to take over as president next fall as the vice president usually does since her second & final term on the council ends in June. Mary Ann Votava motioned & Kevin Fee seconded that Mary Ann Whalen continue as recording secretary. Motion approved.

III. Reports of Representing Organizations

- **Altar Society:** Mary Ann Whalen reported that the Altar Society will be mailing out their annual letter to parishioners along with the bazaar raffle tickets around Labor Day. They will meet on Sept. 8. Members helped with the parish picnic in July.
- **Men's Club:** Joe Kotrba reported that the executive board will meet on Aug. 24 to discuss the coming year. The first Men's Club meeting will be the first Monday after Labor Day. The Men's Club will be serving the breakfast on the Sunday of the Centennial School Celebration.
- **Knights of Columbus:** Tom Helbling reported the Knights of Columbus sold crosses in May and raised \$922 to donate to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund. They have also made a donation to the Men's Conference to be held at the Fargodome on Oct. 8.
- **Bridge Builders:** Kevin Bosh reported the Bridge Builders had not met yet. However, he recently received an email about the Bridge Builders possibly giving money to buy some new desks.

IV. Reports from Parish Boards and Councils

- **Education Board:** Casey Hutton reported that Teacher Orientation will be Aug. 25 and schools starts on Aug. 29. "Back to School Night" is Aug. 25. There is one new teacher this year—for preschool since there are now two sections. The school enrollment is 165—up from last year. The Education Board will meet the first Tues. in Sept. Religious Education orientation is Aug. 24. Fr. Luke Meyer will be speaking. The new middle school coordinator is Angela Schmaltz. She is also starting two new adult formation classes—one will be at the "Brick & Barley."
- **Finance Council:** The Finance Council was scheduled to meet on Wed., Aug. 24. The business manager position is still open for this third round of advertisement. A candidate will be interviewed next week. Council members asked if a degree in accounting was really needed for the position. Fr. Braun will ask the Finance Council that question. The year-end financial report was passed out. It will be put in the bulletin in Sept. Our parish Sunday income had a budgeted shortfall of \$68,392. Envelopes took in \$47,911 less than last year (.5% decline) and the plate took in \$8,259 less than last year (.8% decline). We still \$73,698.50 remaining in our 2009 Geothermal Campaign, which has been designated to repair the flat roof of the 1950 school. No time frame has been set for the roof repair allowing the funds to gain interest while being held in a permanently restricted account for the repair. This fall we will be participating in a Diocesan-mandated program to help parishioners understand their

need for stewardship.

- **Pastor's Report:**

- a) Lake Property Update: One lot was sold in early June. The Finance Council is exploring how to designate the funds. The penalty on the sale past-due date is being negotiated. Maybe the penalty will be given as a donation to the pastoral center.
- b) A reception was held on June 12 to celebrate Fr. Bill Sherman's 61st and Fr. Ed Sherman's 60th priesthood ordination anniversaries. Deacons John Bredemeier and Les Noehre coordinated this.
- c) A prayer partner ministry in our parish has started up again. A monthly letter is sent out to participants. This program especially offers our homebound parishioners a ministry opportunity and a connection with the parish.
- d) As of yet, we have been unable to organize a farewell reception for Deb Beauchamp. She was business manager at St. Mike's for approximately 15 years.
- e) Fr. Joseph D'Aco began his ministry here at St. Mike's in mid-July. However, he'll be covering the Park River parish on weekends from Sept. 1—Jan. 2 while their priest is on Sabbatical.
- f) St. Michael's School building has been placed on the National Historical Registry. However, we will not be taking money from the state.
- g) Our parish currently reaches out to those in need in a number of ways such as the Christmas Giving Tree Program, St. Joseph's Social Care & Food Pantry Program, God's Gift, and donations to a number of charities. Last year we gave \$148,635 to outside charities, Diocesan & special collections, and special causes (in addition to contributions by parishioners to other appeals of which we did not keep tally). We might want to consider doing other things, also. Perhaps a Social Justice Committee should be formed to consider the possibilities. For example, Holy Family Parish has cooked a meal at the Rescue Mission.
We might want to consider an international organization such as NPH USA-*Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos* which operates homes for orphaned, abandoned, and poor children in nine countries. The Regional Director, Stephanie Pommier, would be willing to work with our parish to guide us in a process to slowly build up support through the years.
- h) A 2016-17 Parish & School Staff/Faculty Roster was passed out to council members.

V. Old and Current Business:

- **Pastoral Center Update:**

- a) We need a total of \$1.8 million for the project (up from \$1.6 million). The 1.6 was rounded down from roughly 1.65 with projected interest payments on loans from the Diocese adding an additional \$100,000.
- b) We still need to raise another \$250,000 to meet our original goal of \$1.6 million.
\$250,000. In past months, Fr. Braun has received two phone calls from people who perhaps might be willing to donate such an amount, but nothing has come of that as of yet.
- b) The Parish Finance Council met with the Diocesan Finance Council on June 21 and received approval to start construction. On Aug. 30, EAPC and St. Mike's Building Committee will meet with the Diocese Property Manager, Earl Whilhelm, to review procedures for the bidding process. We then hope to advertise & receive bids in Sept. and award the contract(s) by the end of the month. Construction would start in Oct. and take a year to complete.
- c) EAPC will oversee the process of getting bids. We are hiring EAPC's sister company—Construction Development, Inc.—to provide construction management services for the project. EAPC coordinates the construction manager for us. This process will provide us with the opportunity to consider our own choices for subcontractors.
- d) There was an open house at the center on June 12 to launch the "Paver Stone" Incentive. So far, 73 bricks have been sold with a total profit of \$12,174.80.
- e) We are also hoping to raise funds by giving donor-naming rights to the rooms in the building. Current donors who have made substantial pledges will be afforded the first opportunity too designate a memorial name. Parish council members, however, were **not** in favor of naming rights for the building

itself—not even for a very large donation. It was felt pastoral center should be designated as St. Michaels.

- **Sunday Offertory Collection Method:** This topic was not discussed at the meeting.
- **Centennial School Celebration:** It will be held Sept. 24-25. There will be a banquet Saturday evening with Bishop Folda in the Youth Center. On Sunday will be Mass and the Men's Club breakfast.

VI. New Business:

- The St. Paul Newman Ctr. at NDSU has asked all parishes to play a three-minute video on Sunday, Oct. 23, to promote their campaign to construct a new building. Council members were not keen on this idea. Holly Brown-Borg motioned not to show the video. Seconded by Tom Helbling. Motion carried unanimously **not** to show the video.
- A request has been made for the parish to help fund a chartered bus to go to the "Made for Greatness" Men's Conference in Fargo on Oct. 8. The cost is \$650. This was discussed by council members. Many were not in favor of this expenditure. They felt a chartered bus to Fargo might not be necessary. Fr. Braun will bring this input to the Finance Council meeting.
- The parish survey taken in late June was brought up. Fr. Haman worked on collating the results which were still being processed. Briefly, there were no strong opinions to change the Mass times. 57% of the people were in favor of the 'Invitation to introduce ourselves and pray for each other.' However, the minority expressed strong disapproval so much so that parish ministry staff felt it best to discontinue the practice.
- We are thinking of again having a "Reverse Auction" at the Fall Fun Fest coming up on Oct. 29. Last year I-pads for the school were bought. Council members were asked what the request should be for this year. For example, some ideas were: installation of a Loop Field Hearing System when new carpet is installed in the church, installation of marble flooring in the sanctuary, or replacement of the exterior protection for the stained glass windows. Members decided to revisit this at the next meeting. Fr. Braun will try to get some idea of the estimated costs.

VII. Calendar Dates—Significant Events

- "That Man is You" program begins Sept. 14. It will be held at Holy Family this year.
- St. Michael's School Centennial: Sept. 24-25
- Altar Society Fall Dinner & Bazaar: Oct. 2
- "Made for Greatness" Men's Conference at the Fargodome: Oct. 8
- Fall Fun Fest: Oct. 29
- Parish Lenten Mission with Fr. Ermer: March 19-21

VIII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

- Loren Liepold adjourned the meeting and Fr. D'Aco led the closing prayer.
- Next Meeting: Sept. 20

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Whalen