

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

January 9, 2017 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, John Companik, Lee Ann Egan, David Gray, Linda Hansen, Lynda Hemmerling, Alice Lewinski, Ted Markiewicz, Mike Morley, Lynn Schmitt, Gib Wieser

Additional guests present: Glenn Cantrell, Ben Dorris, Colleen Kennedy, Gary Kriepps, Jen Poskin, Monica Jimenez-Susoreny

The first parish pastoral council meeting of 2017 occurred on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, so Fr. Marty began the meeting by reading from St. Gregory Nazianzen's sermon on baptism, which was followed by a short prayer.

Regular council business at this meeting included an update from Linda Hansen on the synod process. She reported that articles the diocese sends to parishes for publication in bulletins don't match what our parish has completed so far. St. Michael has already identified deanery representatives and has submitted ideas from the October 23rd meeting to the diocese, and many of those ideas are part of our parish strategic plan. Council members have been assigned to various synod committees, and many of them will be asked to attend a deanery synod meeting on February 11th from 9:00 AM to noon in St. Patrick Hall. In non-synod news, Lynda Hemmerling stated that her stewardship commission will have a meeting shortly, the fruits of which will be discussed at an upcoming council meeting.

A large part of this meeting was dedicated to a presentation from guests, Fr. Marty, Gib and Ted, all of whom worked to create a realistic and hopeful description of St. Michael School's past, present and future. The presentation included details about the school's founding in 1900 and past accomplishments, data about the school's declining enrollment even in the midst of schoolwide improvements made in recent years, how the school factors in to the parish's overall budget, demographic information, a summary of marketing efforts including a renewed emphasis on internet marketing and community-wide events, and ideas for future advancement including open houses and ambassadors. Council members were impressed with the presentation and made suggestions to the group to enhance their already high-level effort.

Following the Hail Mary, the council adjourned until its next meeting on Monday, February 6th, at 7:00 PM in one of the small meeting rooms adjacent to St. Patrick Hall. Additional meetings in the first half of 2017 are slated for March 13th, April 10th, May 8th and June 16th.