

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council  
February 12, 2018 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Gregory, John Companik, Lee Ann Egan, David Gray, Linda Hansen, Linda Kinzer, Jim Prasopoulos, Dan Price, Lynn Schmitt, Gib Wieser

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading from St. Bernard of Clairvaux's sermon on wisdom and leading the council in an opening prayer. Those present were reminded that discernment sessions for new parish council members and positions on other parish committees are scheduled for February 28 and March 7. In the past, personal invitations have often inspired people to participate in these important groups, and so council members were encouraged to make similar invitations for this year's discernment process.

The council spent a portion of the meeting receiving updates from commissions and reviewing the parish's strategic plan. The most recent stewardship commission and liturgy committee meetings were cancelled due to weather. The education and formation commission will meet February 22, and the parish life commission will meet February 26. The peace and social justice commission met recently, and the council took time to review that commission's portion of the parish's strategic plan. While doing so, the council discussed ways to increase attendance at commission meetings and learned that the school is reviewing and revising its portion of the parish's strategic plan.

The bulk of the meeting was dedicated to the synod implementation process. At a special meeting in late January, council members focused on two priorities: educating and developing small faith-sharing groups and evangelization training. For each priority, council members formed a rationale, selected a primary champion and other key persons, developed key strategies, discussed financial allocations and roles of clergy and laity, and constructed a communication plan to specific audiences. At this meeting, the council focused on its third priority, namely expansion of ministries of justice and charity. The council had a long discussion about where and how such ministries should be expanded and ultimately formed a rationale to create a moral awareness of others' needs and our collective responsibility to address those needs beyond our own borders. The Diocese of Gary has had a long relationship with the people of the Diocese of Fort-Liberte in Haiti, and so council members identified key persons and developed strategies which would allow our parish to have more of a presence and impact in Haiti than ever before. Council members and others on the synod implementation team soon will put the finishing touches on each of the three main synod

priorities and in March will form a parish communication plan. By April 1, Fr. Marty and the parish pastoral council will approve parish goals and plans and after doing so will submit the same goals and plans to Bishop Hying. After receiving Bishop Hying's approval, the parish will formally begin implementing its plan.

Following the Hail Mary, the council adjourned until its next meeting on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, at 7 p.m. in one of the small meeting rooms in St. Patrick's Hall. Future meetings are scheduled for April 9, May 14 and June 20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Cox