

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
November 13, 2017 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Gregory, Deacon Ed, John Companik, Lee Ann Egan, David Gray, Linda Hansen, Linda Kinzer, Alice Lewinski, Dan Price, Lynn Schmitt, Joe Tomaszewski, Gib Wieser

Fr. Marty began the evening by reading from an anonymous homily written in the 2nd century and by leading the council in an opening prayer.

Alice described several programs that could help from small faith-sharing groups within the parish. These programs include Alpha, Christ Renews His Parish, Live Christ Share Christ and Making Intentional Disciples. Fr. Marty explained that Live Christ Share Christ is more reading-based, while Alpha is more video-based and creates a more casual and relaxed atmosphere since early sessions involve a meal. Fr. Gregory was impressed with the high production quality of the videos in Alpha, and the council also learned that Alpha contains a youth program. The council came to a consensus that Alpha is the best option for helping the parish create small faith-sharing groups and hopes to have Alpha available to the entire parish in 2018.

Fr. Marty and several council members and parishioners have been meeting to plan how to implement initiatives determined at the diocesan synod. At a recent synod implementation meeting they were asked to list two or three parish strengths and two or three parish opportunities for each of the eight main topics discussed at the synod. The topics and their strengths and weaknesses are:

Evangelization

Strengths: RCIA, parish communications coordinator, adult formation

Opportunities: forming small faith-sharing groups, forming individual disciples, increasing engagement among school families and religious education families

Marriage and Family

Strengths: marriage prep program, parish school, Sunday family faith formation

Opportunities: supporting married couples, engage Knights of Columbus to help strengthen families.

Prayer, Sacrament and Worship

Strengths: engaging liturgy, thought-provoking preaching, healthy devotional life

Opportunities: increase Mass attendance, use liturgy of hours, developing a synergy between homily, music and stewardship

Discipleship and Formation

Strengths: bible study programs, conscious effort toward adult formation, ministry retreats and parish missions

Opportunities: young adult ministry, small faith-sharing groups

Vocations and Leadership Formation

Strengths: vocation ministry including youth group, presence of religious sisters, strong pastoral council and finance council

Opportunities: increasing vocation ministry, foster culture of vocations, forming more deacons and lay ecclesial ministers

Stewardship

Strengths: stewardship commission, history of generosity among parishioners, successful capital campaigns

Opportunities: expanding stewardship commission, adopting a parish in a poor country

Young Catholics

Strengths: parish youth group and youth group leadership team, retreats, presence of college students at Mass

Opportunities: creating a young adult ministry for people in their 20s and 30s, reviving Theology on Tap

Social Teaching

Strengths: Good Samaritans, Rebuilding Hope, active peace and social justice commission

Opportunities: solving systemic social issues, synergy between charity and evangelization, increase effort across peace and social justice commission to bring activities together

Of the strengths and opportunities listed above, council members were asked to list their top five strengths and top five opportunities in no particular order. They are:

Strengths: youth ministry, liturgy, adult education and formation, social outreach ministries, stewardship

Opportunities: Mass attendance, small faith-sharing groups, young adult ministry, synergy between charity and evangelization, forming more deacons and lay ecclesial ministers

At a recent synod implementation meeting, Fr. Marty and council members and parishioners were asked to create five physical markers they wish to see in the parish in five years. In no particular order, they are:

worship space at capacity, doubling the amount of children at Mass, creating a smooth floor in the church, the presence of hospitality ministers throughout the church and not just in the gathering space, and building a handicapped-accessible parish office.

The synod planning and implementation process will continue at meetings throughout 2017 and into 2018, with the next such meeting occurring November 15.

Linda H. reported on a recent meeting of the education and formation commission. The commission plans to revive a vocation ministry and create a faith formation board. Those present also reviewed their portion of the parish pastoral plan and will continue to work on these projects before their next meeting in early 2018. Lynn reported on a recent meeting of the stewardship commission during which members discussed their commission's new structure. The council discussed sending some stewardship commission members to the national stewardship conference in 2018 and hopes the commission will attract more members to help reach their goals. Lastly, Lee Ann reported that the most recent liturgy committee meeting went smoothly and final plans have been made for special events during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Finally, Fr. Marty updated the council on developments in the capital campaign. A new continuation committee has been formed, and committee members plan to engage the parish in a variety of ways, including phone calls and new two-year pledge cards. During Masses on November 18-19, a video will be shown which will explain what will happen to the church building during 2018-2019. Continuation

committee members will be available in the gathering space after all Masses that weekend and November 25-26 to answer questions and to distribute handouts which explain how previous campaign donations have been spent, what the budget is for the project, and what the general scope and specific steps of the project are.

After Fr. Gregory led the council in a closing prayer, the council adjourned until its next meeting, scheduled for December 13 at the rectory.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cox