

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
January 15, 2018 minutes

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

Fr. Marty began the meeting by reading from a sermon by St. Ignatius of Antioch and then leading the council in an opening prayer. The council spent the opening portion of the meeting receiving an update on the synod implementation process. The parish's core synod implementation team has met twice with a diocesan consultant and has created a vision statement and five priorities which will help implement the parish's three synod priorities--the creation of small faith-sharing groups (including use of the Alpha program), the introduction of evangelization training and the expansion of ministries of justice and charity. In the coming weeks, the core team will create specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused and time-bound goals for each of the three parish synod priorities and devise specific plans to achieve those goals. Fr. Marty invited council members and other parishioners with experience in similar strategic planning endeavors to join him and the core team on January 27 to complete that process. Remaining steps in the synod implementation process include forming a parish communication plan, submitting goals and plans to Fr. Marty and the parish pastoral council for approval, and, after being approved at the parish level, submitting goals and plans to Bishop Hysing by April 1 for his approval, after which the parish may begin implementing its plan.

The council next reviewed a letter from Gary Kriebs which describes in great detail the work that needs to be done to repair the church building. Work is slated to begin shortly after April 1 and could be completed by January 2019, with landscaping work being completed the following spring. Fr. Marty said cash flow in the Our Lasting Legacy campaign remains strong, and the council approved putting an edited version of Gary's letter in an upcoming bulletin. Gary also prepared several charts and graphs logging a variety of Sunday and Holy Day collections. Among them were Easter 2014-2017, Christmas 2015-2017, Sunday collections from 2014-2017, a weekly breakdown of Sunday collections in 2017, annualized totals from 2014-2017, EFT (electronic funds transfer) totals from 2014-2017, loose collections from 2014-2017, and children's collections from 2014-2017. The council appreciated Gary's hard and detailed work which showed upward trends in both annualized totals and EFT totals.

In other financial business, Fr. Marty reported that the parish school's budget for next year is being prepared. New this year, the school will offer an all-day preschool for children ages 4-5 and will expand its a half-day preschool for children ages 3-4 with a choice of either a morning session or an afternoon session.

Lee Ann and Gib attended a recent liturgy committee meeting which included a review of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Possible changes for Advent and Christmas 2018 from a liturgical standpoint include an earlier start time for Advent evening prayer and different hymns at the Christmas vigil and midnight Masses. The committee also planned future events, including the 11:30 Mass on January 21 which will feature students from the parish school serving in a variety of liturgical ministries, a Lenten morning of reflection for liturgical ministers on February 17, and a parish penance service on March 14. Other commissions have meetings scheduled for later in January (peace and social justice commission) or in February (stewardship commission).

Following the Hail Mary, the council adjourned until its next meeting on February 12 in one of the meeting rooms of St. Patrick Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for March 19, April 9, May 14 and June 20.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cox