

## St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council

March 19, 2018 minutes

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

Additional guests present: Tom Molnar

Since the meeting was held on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Fr. Marty appropriately began the meeting by reading from St. Bernardine of Siena's sermon about the patron of the universal church and then leading the council in an opening prayer.

The council had a discussion with representatives from the Labors of Love ministry who brought samples of the knitted, woven and crocheted items they craft for new mothers and their babies, residents of nursing homes, veterans, and homeless shelters in Northwest Indiana. All present were grateful to Labors of Love for the good work that ministry is doing, and Fr. Marty and John encouraged Labors of Love to work closely with other ministries in the peace and social justice commission in the hope that Labors of Love might be even more successful than it is now. Linda suggested the ministry put a notice in the bulletin to ask for parishioner donations of specific types and amounts of yarn so that members may continue their good work. Fr. Marty said he'd be comfortable making a similar announcement from the chair and viewed asking for donations of supplies as a way for parishioners to feel a greater sense of involvement with Labors of Love. The visit by Labors of Love representatives reminded the council of the parish's renewed emphasis on stewardship and provided a good example of how commissions should work for the good of the parish as a whole.

To that end, several commissions held meetings since the council's last meeting on February 12. In Lynn Schmitt's absence, John reported on the March 8 meeting of the stewardship commission. Dan reported that the February 26 meeting of the parish life commission included discussions about highlighting more ethnic groups in the parish, particularly having ethnic cuisine available at parish events, and how to improve the coffee and rolls event held the second Sunday of each month. In Linda Hansen's absence, John reported on a recent meeting of the education and formation commission, which, along with the parish life commission, spent time at their most recent meeting updating their commission's portion of the parish strategic plan. Lee Ann reported on a recent spirituality and worship commission meeting which praised the Lenten morning of reflection held February 17 and made final preparations for Holy Week and the Triduum. Finally, David plans to hold quarterly meetings with the peace and social justice commission but will spend the spring attending individual ministry meetings within that commission.

The synod implementation process is nearing the finish line, and the parish plans to submit its plan to Bishop Hying as close to Easter as possible. Many items in the plan are already underway. Carol Slager is enthusiastic about the Alpha program which will help create small faith-sharing communities, and Deacon Ron has similar enthusiasm for the parish's planned partnership with a parish and parish school in Haiti. Janice Gatons is coordinating a revival of

Theology on Tap, to be held one night a week for three consecutive weeks in late July, and the launch of Theology Uncorked, which is likely to be held at Ciao Bella on three nights over a five-week period this summer.

Fr. Marty updated the council on the upcoming construction. Bishop Hying approved the construction and was complimentary to the parish. Gary Kriebs will be the owner's representative for the entire project and will work closely with architects and construction crews to ensure the project is done correctly and on budget. Representatives from the parish plan to meet with insurance agencies to ensure adequate insurance is available for the entire project, and the parish has made arrangements with the diocese to ensure there will be no cash flow disruptions during the project. Construction is scheduled to begin shortly after Easter and should be complete in early 2019.

Finally, the council looked ahead to its 2018-2019 term and welcomed Tom Molnar to the fold. His three-year term officially begins this summer, and Lee Ann will return for another three-year term. There is a possibility additional parishioners who have gone through the discernment process will be added to the council in time for the 2018-2019 term to give the council a full complement of 12 members.

Following the closing prayer, the council adjourned until its next meeting on Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m. in one of the small meeting rooms of St. Patrick's Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for May 14 at 7 p.m. and June 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Cox