

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
September 4, 2018 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Gregory, John Companik, Lee Ann Egan, David Gray, Jim Prasopoulos, Lynn Schmitt, and Joe Tomaszewski

Additional guest present: Deacon Declan McNicholas

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading from a reflection by St. Gregory the Great, a canonized pope whose feast day was September 3. The reflection referred to the prophet Ezekiel and conveyed St. Gregory's thoughts on being a bishop. This was followed by an opening prayer.

John opened the business portion of the meeting by updating those present on action items carried over from the August meeting. Among them was an idea to seek new council members and have discernment in the fall rather than in the spring as has been the custom for many years. The council is currently operating with nine members rather than the traditional twelve, so council members spent time discussing ways to fill the vacancies, including asking previous council members to serve on a year-to-year basis until the council is back to its traditional rotation of having eight returning members, four departing members and four new members each year.

Other members of the parish have been busy implementing ideas sprung from the diocesan synod of 2017. John reported that a "beta" version of the Alpha program will run for ten Tuesdays, beginning September 11 and concluding November 20, skipping November 13. The coordinator is hoping to have 30-40 people attend this version and plans to launch a parish-wide version of Alpha in January 2019. Food will be provided at each of the two-hour Tuesday night sessions. Food and drink were contributing factors in the success of Theology on Tap and Theology Uncorked held this summer. 26 people attended the final Theology on Tap session, while 98 people attended the final Theology Uncorked session. Another evangelization project is scheduled to begin this week. Finally, the parish has formed a partnership with Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Haiti and welcomed clergy from Our Lady of Mercy to St. Michael over the summer. The Haitian clergy attended daily and weekend Masses, met with school students and received the support of not only the St. Michael-Haiti steering committee but also the financial support of parishioners who attended a pancake breakfast and/or made separate donations. Approximately \$5800 will go from St. Michael to Our Lady of Mercy, and a team of parishioners is planning to visit Haiti in the coming months.

The council itself has a busy September, starting with its annual retreat September 7-8, during which council members will discuss the charter document, review the strategic plan and discern for the positions of chair, vice-chair and commission liaisons. On September 29-30, the council is responsible of much of the parish feast day celebration. John distributed reports of recent feast day activities and, after explaining the various tasks associated with the celebration, asked council members to assist with those tasks this year.

The feast day was a topic of discussion at a recent liturgy committee meeting. Lee Ann reported that the committee also finalized plans to hold a living rosary on October 2, made preparations

for All Saints Day and All Souls Day on November 1 and November 2 respectively, and the parish mission, which is scheduled for November 10-13. In addition, liturgy committee members were invited to attend a conference at Nativity of Our Savior in Portage from October 21-24.

Finally, Fr. Marty and the council discussed the parish financial report which was distributed in the bulletin at Masses the weekend of September 1-2. Those present were very satisfied with the financial information in the report as well as the way in which the information was presented. Council members signed a document approving the report, and the document will be sent to the diocese.

After Fr. Gregory led the council in a closing prayer, the council adjourned until its next regularly scheduled meeting on October 15 at 7 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms of St. Patrick Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for November 19, December 12, January 14, February 11, March 18, April 8, May 20 and June 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cox