

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
January 14, 2019 minutes

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

Since this meeting took place on the Monday following the Baptism of the Lord, Fr. Marty opened the proceedings by reading from a sermon on baptism by St. Gregory of Nazianzus, a 4th century archbishop of Constantinople. An opening prayer followed.

Young adults have a particular role in the parish's synod initiative regarding evangelization. A winter version of Theology on Tap drew approximately 10 people to Region Ale on January 9. Theology Uncorked, a similar event designed for older Catholics, plans to have winter events on February 12 and February 26 at Gamba's. Fr. Marty suggested that future events might be held closer to home in late summer or early fall and discussed the possibility of taking reservations and modest payments to defray costs for such events. The council also received updates on the parish's other two synod initiatives. Alpha is set to begin January 22 and already 40 people plan to attend the inaugural session. Alpha leadership plans to hold a retreat for participants in March as part of the program and is looking at a site in Cedar Lake to host the event. Although the parish had success in the early stages of its twinning program with a parish in Haiti, those plans are now on hold as the parish in Haiti undergoes changes. Our parish is hopeful that our diocese, which has a longstanding relationship with Haiti, will facilitate twinning with another parish in Haiti as soon as possible. Bishop Hying plans to visit St. Michael on March 3 and meet with various parish groups to receive updates on synod progress.

New members will be added to the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, School Advisory Committee, the Home and School Committee and the Sports Committee this spring. Discernment sessions are scheduled for March 13 and 20, and the council discussed ways to attract and notify parishioners who may be good fits in one or more groups. Letters, phone calls, bulletin ads, and a recruitment table in the gathering space were viewed as appropriate means of contacting potential candidates. The council also spent time reviewing several action plan items, including an exit interview of a past council member, before deciding to meet April 27 for a comprehensive review of the parish's strategic plan. The new Pastoral Council Transition Team (Lynn and Lee Ann) reported that the exit interviews of departing members have been completed, discussions with new members are in progress and John will develop a short guide for Transition Team duties to attach to our Charter.

On the commissions front, John distributed a proposed agenda for the commissions night to be held February 6. The first half of the night will include an opening prayer, a synod action plan update, a review of the synod initiatives, a review of commissions, charters and the parish strategic plan, and a request for discernment candidates. The second half of the evening will consist of breakout sessions for each commission, followed by reports by each commission, a review of next steps and a closing prayer. The whole evening should last approximately two hours, and John distributed a planning chart which outlined tasks to be completed before the event and on the night of the event itself.

David led off a series of commissions updates by recapping a recent Peace and Social Justice Commission meeting which was well-attended. Lynn reported that members of the Stewardship Commission recently attended a conference and returned with fresh ideas that they would like to share with the council at a future meeting. Linda and Jim reported that the Education and Formation Commission worked on its charter at its most recent meeting. Lee Ann stated that the Spirituality and

Worship Commission finished its charter at its most recent meeting. That commission was pleased with the Advent and Christmas liturgies and set dates for special events during Lent, including a morning of reflection for liturgical ministers on March 9, the Night of Love on March 22 and 23, and penance services on March 22, April 2 and April 10. Dates for First Confession and First Communion have also been established. Following a closing prayer led by Fr. Gregory, the council adjourned until its next meeting on February 11 at 7 p.m. in one of the small meeting rooms of St. Patrick's Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for March 18, April 8, May 20 and June 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cox