

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council  
April 15, 2019 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Gregory, Deacon Declan, John Companik, Lee Ann Egan, Linda Kinzer, Tom Molnar, Dan Price, Jim Prasopoulos, Lynn Schmitt

Additional Guest Present: Mark Dockery from CCS

Note: Prior to this meeting, David Gray, whose term was scheduled to expire in June 2019, resigned from the Parish Pastoral Council due to responsibilities at his new place of employment. Remaining council members wished him well via email and thanked him for his nearly three years of service.

Fr. Marty formally began the meeting by reading from a treatise by St. Augustine which will be part of the office of readings for Wednesday of Holy Week. An opening prayer followed. The council then received updates on several action items and on the discernment process. Fr. Marty felt the discernment sessions were especially productive for the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council and was pleased to announce that Barb Anderson, Kathy Lakatos, Cindy Morley, Devin Sanders, Jack Velazquez and John Zaborske will join the council this year. At the same time, Lynn and Dan will begin their second three-year terms as council members. It is possible that some of the six new members will serve traditional three-year terms while others may be asked to serve shorter terms in order to return the council to its traditional schedule of losing four members and adding four members each year. John Companik plans to invite the six new members to the council's strategic plan review session scheduled for April 27, and they will also be invited to the council's regular May and June meetings. Fr. Marty and Janice Gatons received praise for leading this year's discernment sessions, though Fr. Marty is open to having a layperson with skills in group dynamics lead future discernment sessions.

Mark Dockery from CCS has been on site for much of April and met with Fr. Marty, Fr. Gregory and Gary Kriebs to familiarize himself with the Our Lasting Legacy campaign. Mark shared his plans for reenergizing the campaign and is excited to be working with Hal Slager, who is chairing a parish committee to help with this process. All parishioners will receive one of seven different versions of a letter which has been customized based on their pledge history. The parish is hopeful it will have a surplus of donations following completion of the campaign in May 2020, and if that is the case, Fr. Marty plans to ask parishioners how to best spend the remaining contributions. Mark stressed that throughout the campaign the donor is more important than the gift, and he is confident the campaign will have a successful conclusion.

John, Lee Ann and Fr. Marty updated the council on the parish's three synod initiatives. John reported that Alpha ended its first series of meetings on April 2, and those who attended had very positive feedback. Some plan to continue having small faith-sharing groups amongst themselves and will return to help with the next series of Alpha which is scheduled to begin this fall. Lee Ann and the Theology Uncorked team plan to invite Fr. David Simonetti from St. Florian Parish in Hegewisch to speak at a future event, and Fr. Marty encouraged that group to plan far in advance so that events may be publicized on Christmas and Easter. Finally, Fr. Marty said the parish has taken steps to twin with a different parish in Haiti. Deacon Ron received a letter from

the pastor of the new Haitian parish, and parish leaders and parishioners plan to visit there later this year.

Council members spent a few moments discussing feedback they've received on the parish's recent purchase of a house adjacent to the parish school. Feedback has been positive with few exceptions. In those cases, council members have taken care to fully explain the purchase, the history behind it and the parish's future plans for that property

Several parish commissions, as well as the Diocesan Pastoral Council, plan to meet in early May, and updates are likely to be included in minutes of the council's next meeting, which is scheduled for May 20 in one of the small meeting rooms of St. Patrick's Hall. The council's final meeting of the 2018-19 year will be June 21 at the rectory. The April meeting adjourned following a closing prayer led by Fr. Gregory.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Cox