

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council
February 11, 2019 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Gregory, John Companik, Lee Ann Egan, Linda Kinzer, Tom Molnar, Dan Price, Lynn Schmitt, Joe Tomaszewski

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading from a letter by St. Ambrose and then leading those present in an opening prayer. John reported progress on several council action items, most notably the development of a transition team guide and the additions of commission charters to the parish's web site. The council plans to review and, if necessary, revise the parish's strategic plan at a special meeting on April 27. The council has also developed invitations for discernment and will make them available in the gathering space after Masses the weekends of February 17 and February 24. Parishioners may also receive discernment invitations and information in the mail in advance of discernment sessions scheduled for March 13 and March 20. The council spent time discussing how youth and young adults might become more involved in groups for which discernment sessions are being held, and Fr. Marty noted that the diocese is creating a new parish pastoral council guide booklet which may allow for new ways of organizing ministries in the future.

Dan attended the most recent meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral Council on February 9 at St. Casimir in Hammond. He was pleased to see that the diocesan council is becoming more structured and noted that St. Michael remains far ahead of many other parishes in terms of active ministries and synod implementation. Leaders of approximately 30 of those active ministries gathered for a St. Michael Parish Commissions Night on February 6. Those present that evening supported the parish's synod goals and implementation, and, although no major issues were reported, Lynn is compiling a list of their comments and suggestions.

Fr. Marty updated all present on the capital campaign and construction, which is now approximately 75% complete. With the project nearing the finish line, it is becoming increasingly important that all pledges are paid in full. Although some parishioners have been generous and given more than their pledge or have given without making a formal pledge, their generosity has not overcome the unpaid pledges. To ensure a strong finish to the campaign, the parish is considering bringing back CCS, the consulting company which helped us launch the campaign, and the council was open to this idea.

The subject of purchasing the property adjacent to the school building came up and was discussed. The reason for considering the purchase would be to expand school parking and green space. Purchase of the property would also improve the image of the school environment and makes sense since it is directly across from our cemetery. There were some concerns about a purchase at this time. Members were reminded that this purchase is a strategic move considered by the parish in general for at least the last 30 years. The last time it came up for sale Fr. Connolly had just taken ill and so the parish could not move on the purchase. Members were advised that the Finance Council felt the purchase to be of value to the long term goals of St. Michael's, and the Parish Pastoral Council agreed that this should be pursued.

Finally the council spent considerable time preparing an agenda for Bishop Hying's pastoral visit on Sunday, March 3. Bishop Hying desires to celebrate Mass, meet with parish priests, talk with the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and school leadership, visit the sick and homebound and enjoy fellowship with parishioners, the latter of which will be accomplished at the pancake breakfast and Radiate meeting already scheduled for that day. The council is looking forward to his visit and sharing with Bishop Hying the progress the parish has made implementing its three synod goals while maintaining its other active ministries and sound financial status.

Following a closing prayer led by Fr. Gregory, the council adjourned until its next meeting on Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms of St. Patrick's Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for April 15 (a week later than previously scheduled), May 20 and June 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Cox

