

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council  
March 18, 2019 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Fr. Gregory, John Companik, Linda Kinzer, Dan Price, Lynn Schmitt, Joe Tomaszewski

Fr. Marty opened the meeting by reading a reflection on St. Joseph written by St. Bernardine of Siena, a 15th-century saint. The reading was chosen in advance of St. Joseph's Day on March 19. An opening prayer followed, after which it was noted that a quorum was not present. Therefore, those present could not reach an official consensus on any important matter but could still spend time discussing various issues.

John updated the council on several action items, many of which are complete. Among them are updating the parish web page with commission charters, setting a date to review and revise the parish strategic plan, and finishing various items related to discernment. This year's first discernment session was attended by 21 people discerning for positions on the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council, School Advisory Committee, Home and School Committee and Sports Committee. The parish expects a similar or slightly higher turnout at the second discernment session, after which positions on the five groups listed above will be filled. The Parish Pastoral Council plans to keep its overall membership between 9 and 12 parishioners.

Fr. Marty shared a letter from Bishop Hying thanking the parish for hosting his pastoral visit on March 3. The letter is attached to these minutes so that all parishioners may read it. Parish leadership feels the visit went well, and council members appreciated the opportunity to share their opinions and perspectives with Bishop Hying when he visited the parish.

In April, CCS will return to the parish to help conclude the capital campaign. The Finance Council believes it is important to bolster the last year of the campaign, which is scheduled to end officially in May or June 2020. Hal Slager has agreed to chair a parish committee to help with this process. The parish is hopeful it can maintain or exceed a monthly average of \$8000 to \$9000 in payments for the remainder of the campaign and is optimistic that the trolley graphic which has appeared in bulletins will help parishioners remember to pay off their pledges on time and see that the end is in sight.

The council also discussed several other matters. One was the parish's new phone system, which now requires a four-digit extension starting with 8. The other three digits of the new system's four-digit extension are the same as the former system's three-digit extension, meaning that if a person's previous extension was 123, it is now 8123. The council also debated the merits of an official council email address and the creation of a parish award honoring excellence and dedication in lay ministry. Many lay ministers attended the annual morning of reflection held on the Saturday after Ash Wednesday, but the attendance was smaller than in recent years. Fr. Gregory wondered if the smaller attendance was the result of having fewer ministers overall, but others wondered if people forgot to attend or had other commitments. Lynn and members of the Stewardship Commission plan to meet with Fr. Marty and Fr. Gregory on May 1, and by that time work may begin on taking down the house recently purchased by the parish.

Following a closing prayer offered by Fr. Gregory, the council adjourned until its next meeting on April 15 at 7 p.m. in one of the meeting rooms of St. Patrick's Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled for May 20 and June 21.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Cox