

Minutes of St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting
November 20, 2008
7:30-9:15 pm

Present: Fr. Murray, Mary Taylor, Natalie Simek, Fr. John Sharp, Mark Van Den Bossche, Butch Cavender, Greg Denomme, Langoya Johnson, Pam Beker, Gerry Bezzina, Karen Owens, Filomena Palmieri, John Coderre, Gail MacKay, Cherylann Grace (Scribe)

Regrets: Emma Markle

Opening Prayer: Led by Fr. John

Special Presentation: Parish Nurse

- Welcomed Maria Deluca, member of St Michael's for 15 years, and Heather Cushing, St. Peter's Cathedral parish nurse
- Heather gave a presentation on parish nursing:
 - Promote nursing at church, 25 years in nursing
 - Gave out package and presented slide show
 - Parish nurse is part of the parish team, survey the needy to find out what the parish needs
 - Perhaps funding from government to get this started
 - Bring health care and church together
 - To be discussed in the future

Amendments to Agenda:

- Gerry suggested we postpone Ministry Fair results until next meeting.
- Thanked Mark, Gail, Pam, and Karen for their assistance with the Ministry Fair

Review of October minutes:

- October minutes were accepted (John) and seconded (Karen).

1) Stewardship Update

- Vincent Taylor provided Council with an update.
- 200 cards have been returned so far.
- Gerry spoke at all 4 masses and an edited version will be in the next Parish Newsletter.
- No problems identified at the Ministry Fair.
- Vince suggested that Stewardship should be done yearly. Some people don't like to be told what to give.
- The witness talks are very powerful.
- Karen thinks the Ministry fair is powerful. It is a good display of how many ministries we have in the parish.
- Mailing went well.
- Ideas for next year;
 - hold fair at different time of year,
 - set up selected ministries in the foyer of the church to attract new members.

- Phone committee was established 3 years ago to update records and follow-up with parishioners. Perhaps phone communication should be done during the year.
- Fr Murray identified that the staff had trouble with the input received on the stewardship cards. Vince said this will be looked at.
- “Outreach Committee” shall be created to contact all parishioners by phone. A parish “do not call list” should also be set up. Parish needs to know that this is also available. All present agreed that “Outreach Committee” should be created. Vince will take that away and search for a Chair for that committee.

2) Finance Report

- Pam updated Council on the Finance Committee.
- The website has been updated.
- A new roof would cost the parish \$30,000 + . The leaks have been fixed. Now we need to wait to see if, in fact, they have been repaired. Roof should be good for 5 years. Finance Committee would like to delay replacement for at least 4 years.
- Overall collections are down and expenses are up. Finance Committee is looking at ways to reduce expenses.
- 2009 goals are:
 - regular reporting – openly looking for people
 - pay off debt and
 - grow our revenue.

3) Pastoral team Update

- Natalie reported that:
 - Confirmation will be done over 3 nights at the beginning of December. 150 candidates.
 - A youth commission has been created and presently has 3 members.
 - Starting First Communion and First Confession planning.
- Mary reported that:
 - the Mass of Remembrance was held on November 10. Approximately 100 people attended.
 - We have 19 RCIA candidates this year.
- Fr. John is still happy to be here.
 - African presence at last Sunday’s 10:30 mass was wonderful.
 - People at St Michael’s need to sing/participate more in the liturgy. We need to investigate ways of encouraging this.
- Fr. Murray mentioned that
 - Fr. Phillip would lead a mission on Nov 23-26 (1 hour each night) on the Eucharist.
 - Planning has also begun on our 2009 Lenten Mission. There will be several groups of all ages involved during this mission (i.e.) adults, teens and children.
 - The windows in the rectory have finally been replaced! Doors are to be replaced shortly as well.
 - We need to look at nursing as our parish is aging. This needs to be assessed before a decision is made.
 - We now have a part-time caretaker from the Sudan.

4) Good News from the pews

- Everyone enjoyed the African Mass.

5) Other Business

- **Centennial Celebrations:** We need to set up a committee to start planning our centenary celebrations in 2011. We need a banner and should invite all ages to be part of the planning committee. Fr Murray requested names of people who could be part of the committee. St Michael's School will also be 100 so we may be able to co-celebrate with them.
- **Council Minutes on Parish Website:** Terry McBride suggested that he would like to post Council's minutes on the website. Any "in camera" items should be removed before posting. Gerry will follow-up with Terry.

Closing prayer was led by Fr. Murray.

Next meeting: December 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm*

****Note the early start time since this is our Christmas Social.***