

**St Michael Catholic Community
Parish Council Minutes
April 7, 2015**

Attendees: (see completed chart immediately below)

P	Brown, Deanna (Alternate)	P	Quaine, Rev. Michael (Mike)
A	Chadwick, Kayla (Alternate)	P	Reid, James (Jim)
P	Chadwick, Virginia	P	Ricciuti, Renato (Secretary)
P	DiNoto, Karen (Vice Chairperson)	P	Rizzi, Phyllis
A	Eddins, Jamey	P	Sandelich, Michael (Mike) (Chairperson)
A	Galos, Rev. Artemio (Tim) (Excused)	P	Sukes, Shirley A.
P	Hall, Laurie	P	Waddell, Susie
P	Lucas, Sr. JoAnn		
P	Murphy, Robert (Bob)		
P	Nevens, Lester R. (Les)		
P	Peckham, David (Dave)		

P = Present, A = Absent, G = Guest, (Excused) = Excused absence

1) MEETING OPENING

- a. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Mike Sandelich.
- b. **Reading of the Mission Statement** – Attendees read the St Michael Catholic Community Mission Statement.
- c. **Opening Prayer** – Attendees joined in an opening prayer led by Les Nevens.
- d. **Approval of Minutes** – The March 10, 2015 minutes were approved by Dave and seconded by Virginia.

2) ENRICHMENT REFLECTION FEEDBACK

Laurie provided an enrichment video exercise called “Rhythm” that Parish Council (PC) viewed.

The video narrator asked “What image comes to mind when you think of God?” and stated for him he views God as a song, that’s playing all the time and all around us, and it’s written on our hearts, and that everybody is playing the song. The question isn’t whether you’re playing the song but instead are you in tune. The video used an assembly of people playing different musical instruments with each person playing his/her own part. The narrator commented that many people focus on debating whether God exists, but that the Gospel spends the most time not debating whether God exists but instead on what God is like. The narrator stated that it seems many people who claim to be Christian don’t seem in tune with the song, while others who say they don’t know much about Christianity are very in tune with the song. Are you in tune?

Members broke out in teams of 3 afterwards, reflecting upon the video with assistance from a written questionnaire for dialogue. PC enjoyed the exercise very much. Laurie asked whether it was good to start the meeting out with the spirit. She stated further that she knows we often want to be a business but a parish pastoral council is meant to serve the community and to help with their spiritual needs through the various Commissions. If we are in the spirit, and have the chance to talk about and think about our own spirituality, possibly we could do a better job than to focus on being a business. We could be “more in tune”. Phyllis stated she felt this was much more worthwhile than reading the “green book”. Laurie stated she feels we must read the green book, and that new members must have the opportunity to go through it for a formation of some kind. Laurie offered we don’t need to go through a video every time, but she challenged PC to come up with some things that we feel would be interesting. Everybody could come up with and do the enrichment.

Dave volunteered to lead PC in an enrichment exercise next meeting.

3) PASTORAL TEAM REPORTS

- a. Fr. Mike: As we are moving closer to the opening of the activity center, we are going through a punch list of things that need to be prepared. The last Monday in April, the 27th at 6pm, we’ll have a grand cleaning of the new center. As for Fr. Tim, he’s been in contact with Fr. Mike and he is doing fine, and was not affected by the typhoon and is safe and is enjoying his family.
- b. Fr. Tim: No report (absent).
- c. Pastoral Associate, Laurie Hall: We baptized 3 adults over the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil had a great turnout and we had a wonderful celebration.
- d. Vicariate Report, Phyllis Rizzi: Per written report submitted,

“VICARIATE MEETING AT ST. PETERS CHURCH, MONDAY MARCH 23, 2015

Fr. Cooney is our Central Macomb Vicar for the next year and a half. He said this is the 5th time he has been elected as a Vicar. His focus as Vicar is to increase participation by the Pastors to the Vicariate Ministerial Meetings. (The next one is scheduled for Monday, April 13.) Topics discussed at the last Vicariate Meeting were health care for our clergy with one example given of a local priest who had an expensive prescription that was paid out of his own pocket.

The 2016 Synod that is being headed by Bishop Brynes is at the information and discernment phase and is being discussed by committee members.

The topic of supporting marriages and helping to streamline annulments in a more timely manner was also brought up as presently an annulment can take up to two years is partly due to cuts made in the Tribunal by the Archdiocese.

Evangelization was discussed and an example of the program that St. Malachy Parish called CHANGING PEOPLES HEARTS, was given as an example that is successful in that Parish.

Catholic School funding is still in the planning stage and the Archbishop is aiming for a solution that will be agreeable with at least 60% of the Pastors.”

Fr. Mike stated that he’s been at this Parish for 12 years now and has been going to the Vicariate meetings for 12 years, and that the school funding issue has been the issue for 12 years. An issue with Catholic schools is that they are parochial, not regional, and so they belong to the individual parishes. And so an issue exists on whether parishes without schools should contribute to funding, and without knowing details of the Archdiocese’s plan for a consistent, organized plan for this issue going forward. Budgets reflect priorities. Catholic schools are open to teach the Catholic faith, and their budgets don’t currently reflect that top priority. Huge budget items are currently things like football, and technology, and we have to address these realities. What is our mission and purpose for Catholic schools? We need to have an honest discussion of these questions with today’s realities and it seems to never get resolved. Catholic schools as an institution needs to be rethought.

4) CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

No report.

6) BREAK

A break was taken with refreshments provided by Jim Reid.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Activity Center: Fr. Mike provided an update. There are still outstanding issues to be resolved regarding the construction.
- b. Dedication Ceremony for Activity Center: Planning is underway. Shirley, Jamey and Virginia will be meeting early next week and moving forward with planning. Fr. Larry has not yet provided an availability date in September. Bob reminded us once we know the date, then he can put an announcement in the paper. Virginia is pondering an ice cream social with assistance from Knights of Columbus.

Naming the New Center: A list of suggested potential names was distributed and added to in session, and discussed. Suggested names were as follows:

- 1. Fr. Jackson Youth Annex, 2. Fr. Jackson Youth Complex, 3. Fr. Larry Jackson Formation Center, 4. Fr. Jackson Activity Complex, 5. Fr. Larry Jackson Faith Center, 6. FLJ 4 FLT Center, 7. The Father Larry Jackson Pavilion, 8. Fr. Larry Jackson Youth Center, 9. Fr. Larry Jackson Activity Center, and 10. Fr. Larry Jackson Community Faith Center.

By vast majority vote, the new center will be named the “Fr. Larry Jackson Youth Center”.

- c. Constitution/Policies Update Committee: Previously the committee agreed to defer the project work until after Easter weekend. Members now agreed to stay after this PC meeting ends

tonight to agree upon a date to meet, plan the project out, and begin work. [NOTE: Immediately after this PC meeting ended, the committee members briefly met and agreed to meet on Tuesday, April 21, at 5:30 PM].

- d. Search for New Members: Mike discussed having an article put in the Messenger; Karen will put notice on our parish's Facebook page. Members will be selected on Pentacost Sunday. We will need to have some type of formation for new members prior to PC's June meeting.

7) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Election of New Officers: Mike stated this will occur at our meeting in June.
- b. Final review of Commissions' progress against goals: This will occur at PC's June meeting. We should see the progress made during the past year. Plans for next year can be shared too if known.

8) ROUND TABLE

Virginia: Per written Christian Service report read into the record:

"A sub-committee consisting of five member plus Michelle are scheduled to look at the Christian Service Objectives on April 8th, (please advise if the goal are changed); otherwise they will prepare for the same goals. In April, two more training sessions are scheduled to finish off training the remaining volunteers who signed up for Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. Also IVC will be holding an Enrichment seminar here at St Michael with the Lions Club Hearing Center on May 12 in the afternoon . The enrichment is for any of the IVC volunteers from Oakland, Macomb & St. Clair counties who want to understand how to work with a client with hearing loss. The enrichment will also be opened up to parish members who might be interested in getting a hearing screen completed. Community Supper is underway for Friday April 17th with entrée donations from Fern Hill Country Club & side dishes from Passport Pizza. We are planning on 100 people, but will also have additional food as a backup in case more attend."

9) MEETING CLOSING

- a. **Closing Prayer** – Attendees read a closing prayer led by Les Nevens.
- b. **Next Meeting** – May 5, 2015
- c. **Meeting Adjournment** – 9:01 PM by Mike Sandelich. Laurie motioned to adjourn and Bob seconded it.