

**St Michael Catholic Community  
Parish Council Minutes  
March 11, 2014**

**Attendees: Mike Sandelich, David Peckham, Virginia Chadwick, Kayla Chadwick, Karen Mazzara, Laurie Hall, Fr. Michael Quaine, Shane Smith, Renato Ricciuti, Fr. Tim Galos, Shirley Sukes.**

P	Chadwick, Virginia	A	Paul, Elvera
P	Chadwick, Kayla	P	Peckham, David
P	Galos, Artemio Rev. (Tim)	P	Quaine, Michael Rev.
P	Hall, Laurie	P	Ricciuti, Renato
A	Healy, Larry	A	Rizzi, Phyllis
A	Kook, Kim	P	Sandelich, Mike – Vice Chairperson
A	Lucas, Sr. JoAnn	P	Smith, Shane–Chairperson
P	Mazzara, Karen	A	Smolarz, Amy M.
A	Nevens, Lester R. (Les) - Alternante	P	Sukes, Shirley A.

**P = Present, A = Absent, G = Guest**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm – Shane Smith calls the meeting to order

**Reading of the Mission Statement - All**

**Opening Prayer – Virginia Chadwick**

**Approval of Minutes – Feb 4, 2014 minutes were approved by Renato Ricciuti and Shane Smith**

**Enrichment:**

- Continued discussion on Matthew Kelly book, The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic, Chapter 2
- DP liked the information contained in the prayer process, a good guide because we all struggle with that at times. Does not find that the calmness described is automatic, sometimes we are not calm when we pray. Commented on the exclusivity and would like to see the concept broadened to include all Christians
- RR said he liked the chapter related to it very much and understood DP point but since he is Catholic he doesn't mind.
- SS says the book is not for Christians it is for Catholics, why should everything be for everybody.
- Shane says the author may be closing off his market because these concepts are not exclusive to Catholics.
- Discussion about the prayer giant that Matthew Kelly described, many could relate to having one or being one.
- Shane commented on the need for quiet place, sometimes our lives do not allow for that but can be beneficial to open up our daily lives to allow prayer in it. Would like to allow both things to happen at once. Sometimes things are coincidental. If we separate prayer to a specific time and place that it closes off to just letting life happen and pray when spontaneous things happen. Prayer is not one size fits all.
- MS mentions the benefit of having a prayer dialogue maybe while driving, turning the radio off and talking to God in the silence.
- RR shared how he does always think about the right thing to do as the book mentions to strive for, in his current job with a high focus on ethics, he has to deal with that all the time and does always have God on his mind.
- DP reminds that sometimes we just need to pray when a situation presents itself, reflecting on school experiences with kids.
- MS shared the benefit of starting the day with gratitude and prayer and sets the tone for the day.
- MQ found the author to be very dogmatic. This equals that. If you want a calm life, just pray, if every Catholic prays 10 min a day we would be on our way to spiritual renewal. The prescriptive dogmatic approach is challenging. Point in fact is not everyone is a morning person. Prayer is a relationship, we all have different personalities and how we process data, how we express it, which will determine who we are as people and how we relate to other people and even to God. Agrees with DP, the author implies that if you are spiritually healthy nothing bothers you, but sometimes

being spiritually healthy makes us pay more attention to people and can notice when others are down and that is troubling but part of life. This doesn't mean what the author says is bad just might be a little too dogmatic and spirituality is a lot more complex.

- SS discusses the 7 steps of the prayer process, is a good beginning. The goal is to trigger regular meaningful communication with God and regardless of how you look at it or do it this is a good thing. Then commented on a later section about prayerlessness. That a prayerless life makes us like animals and we all know people that are deeply religious but have difficulty praying. Conversely, there are very religious people that do not have the characteristics cited, compassion generosity, humility, and fortitude. Prayer is an important part of that but not the only thing that influences that. If you pray, those four gifts will not just be given to you. This can be problematic with society to simplify things.
- MQ pointed out statement that said the most important things are hardly ever urgent. That insight is a gold nugget
- LH thought the question asking if you are spiritually healthy is a good question to ponder.
- Shane shared a concept about different types of health and the thought that if one of them is out of line you are considered unhealthy. How does one measure spiritual health?
- LH points out that many people struggle with how to pray. If you are struggling with praying, this prescriptive method is "a" way to pray, not the only way, very elementary and as you grow you will find how you are and how you like to pray.
- Shane mentions that the little "black books" or *lexia novena* are very good because they provoke a thought and then just let the ideas come through and talk them out. He finds this method more organic and free flowing.
- MQ found it interesting that 7 points mentioned in the book are an extension to St. Ignatius examen prayer, but the author makes the examen prayer of St. Ignatius the same thing as the examination of conscience and they are very different things. The examination of conscience is a moral evaluation and that is not what St. Ignatius said, he said at the end of your day ask yourself two questions, where is God's grace and where is sin. St Ignatius taught the Jesuits to do this daily. If you have no other time during the day for prayer, ask yourself those two questions before going to bed. Where is God's grace, It is usually found in the coincidences in life, a chance meeting, a conversation, and we learn to see that those places are God reaching out and touching our world.
- RR shares that while we can pick apart a lot of different likes and dislikes, the little nuances. On a higher level, similar to the 80/20 rule that the 7% of people do these things seemingly have certain characteristics, and if others did that would they become more engaged as well.
- MQ responded that when you write something, criticism of it does not mean one is junking the idea, we are having a wonderful conversation about prayer and in 29 years he has never been part of Parish Council where we discussed prayer. However we do need to be cautious when discussing spirituality. Very prayerful people experience intense heartache and can have a faith crisis if the belief is that this equals that. He has to react to that kind of belief because one can become distressed and wonder what they are doing wrong.
- This prescriptive prayer can be perceived as disconnected, or lacks depth not taking into account the nuances of individuality. Very solid structure and lacking fluidity. These are good characteristics just not the only way. Might be too much of a simplification. Very difficult topic to talk about so must be difficult to write about.

- **Pastoral Team Reports –**

- Fr. Mike: Pastor's Report

1. Lent is underway and I would like to thank Fr. Tim for his taking the Masses for Ash Wednesday while I was away. I heard some nice comments on how he handled the distribution of ashes as well as his homily in the evening. As had been the case in the past Laurie Hall prepared a number of envelopes containing blessed ashes so they could be taken out to the homebound. I was also encouraged by the large number of people who came to the liturgies and between the liturgies to pray.
2. I would like to express my gratitude to Richard and Robert Smolarz for decorating the church for Lent. The black and burlap theme is reminiscent of the "sackcloth and ashes" of Lent in times gone by. A little more sackcloth has been added to the ashes to develop the point further.
3. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> Bishop Mike Byrnes celebrated the 9:45 and 11:30 Masses with us. It was a nice opportunity for

us to celebrate the Eucharist with one of our bishops and I was grateful that one of the masses happened to be with the RCIA dismissal and the other was First Communion enrollment. If anything it did give him a chance to see a slice of our parish's life. He did comment on the impressive numbers in our RCIA and I too acknowledge that some of our Evangelization work does appear to me having an impact on our community.

4. Even though the Bishop didn't mention it, I would like to comment on the quality of the Eucharistic enrollment service. First we had a good showing of young people and their parents. Even though I may be tempted at times to see something like the sacramental enrollments at the weekend liturgies as more added stuff added to mass, I admit it brings people to church who may not have otherwise attended which is a good thing. In terms of Evangelization, this is a chance to pass on God's Word. Second, and this very often gets neglected, I suspect that it takes a lot of organization to coach people in the sacramental basics, set dates for the various steps in the formation process, and to convince them to participate in the enrollment by standing up in front of a parish community and expressing their intention to assist their children in their faith formation. Kudos to Cathy McInerney, Verna Nevens, Judie Taegel, Kathy Caddick, and our many catechists in the FLT program for their jobs well done.
5. With the bishop's visit on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was some confusion with the New Parishioner Blessing at the weekend liturgies. I think the idea is a good one, but I think we may need to talk about our intention and our strategies for the future.

- Laurie Hall – Pastoral Report

Catholicism Series continues – we have shown sessions 6 – 8 and will show sessions 9 – 10 of the Fr. Robert Barron Catholicism series in the next two weeks. Attendance has been sporadic, 30 the first week, 6 the next and 16 this week. Those who attend are delighted with the series and are participating in great discussions.

Ash Wednesday was very spirit-filled; people came throughout the day and both Masses were well attended. As usual, we saw many families coming in to pray and impose ashes on each other. It is a blessing to see so many people come to church and spend time in prayer.

Our RCIA members attended the Rite of Enrollment at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful experience for both the catechumens and candidates and those of us who are serving as catechists and sponsors. All participants had wonderful things to say about the community and the feeling of belonging they experienced. I continue to be amazed at the spirit of this group – their witness and participation in the process is a blessing to all who experience it. We are now entering the period of intense preparation – including the Scrutinies. Please pray for all as we embark on this deep, introspective journey.

We will have two younger people joining us at the Easter Vigil to receive Confirmation. Elyssa has been preparing with Claudia Welbes and had received Eucharist and First Reconciliation sacraments a couple of years ago. She then went off to college and has now been able to prepare for Confirmation. Another parishioner, Vanessa Irwin, did all her sacramental preparation as she grew up in the Catholic Church, but experienced doubt just before the date of her Confirmation. She now feels called to complete her Initiation and will also be Confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

So we will have eight baptisms and 14 Confirmations this year. Please join us at the Easter Vigil to share in this witness of God's continued work in our community.

Finally, Bob Murphy and I attended a presentation at Sacred Heart Seminary on the ChristLife Program. This is a program of evangelization and formation. We were very impressed and plan to continue to research and pursue this opportunity for St. Michael.

- Deacon Larry – No Report
- Father Tim
  - Fr. Tim shared that he has the privilege and honor to travel to Rome for the canonization of Pope John Paul II, he leaves on Easter Sunday.
  - Fr. Tim reported that the stations of the cross was very well attended for the first Friday vs the traditional Saturday that it used to be held on.

### **Council Chairperson’s Report / Parishioners Viewpoint – Shane**

- Shane thanked everyone for their help at the New parishioners Mass. He did have a follow up call thanking him for the welcome.

### **Break – Virginia Chadwick**

### **Old Business –**

- Activity Center – at last meeting, they were discussing final touches and are awaiting final approval for the loan expected to come in May and hoping to break ground in May.
- **New Business – No new business at this time**

### **Goals Review followed by, current report if available**

- **Christian Service** – Virginia Chadwick
  - New Path – New journey together. There will be little different focus and outlook.
  - We looked at a handout “The two feet of Christian Service”
  - We looked at works of justice and handouts on Catholic Social Teaching and Catholic Social Teaching Scripture Guide.
  - We reviewed the pamphlet “Bring our baptismal call”.
  - We are reviewing activities in March meeting for May staff meeting.
  - We are also looking at our by-laws and goals with a small committee this week and bringing back to March meeting.
  - Christian Service will look at goals and objectives in our April meeting and bring to May PC meeting.
  - Michelle has started a jail ministry. Jim Dahl and Fr. Mike have their application mailed. Sr. Ronnie is in the process of completing hers.
  - We are looking at a monthly community dinner. Dimitri’s Restaurant would like to participate on a regular basis in feeding the hungry. Weill try to bring in FLT, youth, young families, etc.
  - We are going to expand the features of IVC – looking for more volunteers.
  - Michelle wrote an article that will be published by the end of March. Recapping: what is a Christian Service Commission, what we have done, where we want to go, and invite young couples, newly retired and young families in.
- **Education** – Virginia Chadwick
  - No meeting
- **Finance / Stewardship Commission**- Sr. JoAnn
  - More frozen pipes in the activity center. Keep Sr. Joann in prayers for upcoming surgery.
- **Worship** – Laurie Hall
  - No meeting

- **Vicariate** – Phyllis Rizzi
  - No Report
  
- **Youth** – Vacant

**Closing Prayer** – Virginia Chadwick

**Meeting Assessment** – Productive

**Meeting Adjournment** – 8:30 PM

**Next Meeting** – April 1, 2014

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Karen Mazzara**