

**St Michael Catholic Community  
Parish Council Minutes  
February 5, 2013**

**Attendees:**

P	Chadwick, Virginia	P	Nevens, Lester R. (Les) - Alternate
P	Dillon, Nancy	A	Paul, Elvera
P	Galos, Artemio Rev. (Tim)	L	Quaine, Michael Rev.
P	Hall, Laurie	A	Rizzi, Phyllis
L	Healy, Larry	P	Sandelich, Mike
P	Kook, Kim - Secretary	A	Seckel, Sr. Arlene
P	Lucas, Sr. JoAnn	P	Smith, Shane– Vice Chairperson
P	McKenzie, Keith	P	Smolarz, Amy M.
P	Murphy, Robert – Chairperson	P	Sukes, Shirley A.

P = Present, A = Absent, G = Guest

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm – Bob calls the meeting to order

**Reading of the Mission Statement - All**

**Opening Prayer – Bob Murphy**

**Approval of Minutes –** December 4, 2012 minutes were approved – by Bob and Virginia 2<sup>nd</sup> the approval of the meeting minutes.

**Enrichment:**

- Share Different Cultural Approach to Evangelization – Fr. Tim overall, Filipinos wish to come to America and to get an understanding of America
  - Nations and countries that influence
    - Spain influence 1500’s and ruled the Pilipino Islands from 1500 – 1800
    - Spain was mainly Catholic and therefore influenced the Catholic faith and was the main religion
    - Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century 10% of other religions now exist in the Philippines
    - America influenced the Philippines to assist with the liberation from Spain in the 1800s
    - World views are influenced by America but the faith was driven by Spain
  - Faith Practices and Family Life
    - Faith is extremely important and surrender their lives to God as it was influenced by the Spaniards
    - Devotions and there are two Novenas and the first is Saints such as St. Michael, prepare for mass and meals Novena 9 days of prayers the second third weekend of January is the Holy Child
      - 1<sup>st</sup> day of Novena is when a person day
    - Family life is extremely important
      - Father Tim found it surprising when he came here was that husband and wife have separate accounts
      - 18 Years of Age, children are free to go, whereas in the Philippines there may 5 or 6 families living together, if you visit there, you will not see senior living, nursing homes, children take care of parents
  - Expectations of American People
    - Live a comfortable life financially – is a land of comfort and fortune, to earn and to show how close they are to their families even if they are still living back in the Philippines, they don’t forget family back home
    - Experience what American life really is, as American people are generous to the less fortunate

- Acceptance of Filipinos
  - Are traditional in the way in which they worship
  - Normally during the Eucharist, they only share the body of Christ and only on special occasions would they share the blood of Christ
  - Every 1st Saturday of the month Father Tim delivers mass to the Philippines in the US and the mass is given in Tugaloo which is the official language of the Philippines.
  - 7,600 islands make up the Philippines with different dialects
  - Philippines are learning to adapt to the ways of the American people
- Questions
  - The Filipinos line-up starting a midnight and that there is a quota that the American Embassy will allow each day
  - Can people afford to come to the US? The majority of Filipinos who are in the US are Nurses, Doctors, and professionals
  - Do the Filipinos continue with their Catholic faith? Father Tim believes so as he goes and blesses homes of the Filipinos that come to US.
  - Does it take long to become a US Citizen? It took Father Tim over 2 years
  - Do you feel that Filipinos see Americans as welcoming? Generally, they are content, neighbors treating them without discrimination, however, they are discouraged about having to be registered with a Church, as in the Philippines there are no envelopes, no numbers assigned – money is donated once a year at Fiesta Time, which is June 13
  - Are there other religions in the Philippines? 90% are Catholic and 10% are with the Christian faith due to the missionaries came to the country.
  - Do most Filipinos prefer their own Mass or the way the US Masses are conducted? The younger prefer the US masses because they understand them better because the Masses are not in Tugaloo.
  - Are there any differences between the Baptismal rights? They are the same however, there are many God Parents because their child will receive lots of gifts for Birthdays and Christmas, the more God Parents a child has the better they will be guided in faith.
  - Are there School Systems? Yes same as here, there are lots of Catholic schools, government subsidizes the Catholic schools not just public schools. Catechism is even taught in Public Schools, prayer is allowed in the schools.
  - Divorce is not legal in only two countries, Rome and Philippines.
  - Contraception and abortion is now legal because of the RHA bill – just passed in November.

#### **Pastoral Team Reports –**

- Fr. Mike: Pastor's Report
  - Thanks to all of the folks who attended the Chili Cook-off two weeks ago. The cook off raised \$2604.00, which means about \$800.00, will be divided between the Knights of Columbus' charitable work, the Easter Seals, and the Good Shepherd Coalition. Kudos to all who worked at the cook off, especially our chairperson, Melissa Tuscany. Great work to all and congratulations on a job well done.
  - We are currently undergoing our annual independent audit on our payroll. This annual practice has occurred for almost a decade, thanks to our bookkeeper Judie Taegel. A second set of eyes looking over employment taxes and benefit packages (which, admittedly, can be fairly complicated) helps to keep a good set of checks and balances on our finances. The results of the audit are reviewed by our Finance Council.
    - Has there ever been a thought of outsourcing payroll responsibilities such as ADP?
      - Yes, it has been looked into it and Judy is very comfortable with the system that is currently being used. Father Mike is very comfortable with Judy's work, and her software program that she uses is very comfortable with it.
      - There is an issue that Judy doesn't have a back-up, she needs to do extensive work to go on vacation.

- Judy provides the personal interaction with individuals, everything is personalized when any issues are brought up by any employee.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Father Mike to check with Judy to see if she would be interested getting ADP to take over Payroll.
- Next weekend at all of the masses we will officially welcome our retreat team from the St. Thomas More Mission Group. We have had Frs. Mike and Nick and Sr. Joan at of parish several years ago and I am looking forward to spending some time with them in the days ahead. Our parish renewal will take place beginning with the masses on February 16 and 17 and will run through the 21 February with a final mass and reception. Please take advantage of this opportunity for grace and renewal.
- Wednesday February 13 is Ash Wednesday. There will be two liturgies that day, 9:30 and 7:00 in the evening. Ashes will be distributed at the end of each of the masses and there will be a service of ashes at 12:00 noon. Ashes will be available throughout the day for the sick and homebound.
- Last week's "Super Bowl of Caring" collection from our youth group yielded \$1834.00 for our St. Vincent de Paul Society. It's gratifying to watch our youth group team up with other groups in the parish to assist in accomplishing a common cause. Congratulations to our young people for a marvelous job.
- Please note that St. Ronald is hosting two events during the Lenten season that may be of interest to us. On February 25 they are hosting Bishop Tom Gumbleton who will speak to us on "A Call to Action, the Gospel Mandate." Tom is a long-time advocate for justice and peace and his reflections will be a challenging message for our Lenten prayer. The talk will be at St. Ronald Church at 7:00 and there will be a reception in their social hall following the talk. A second event is a youth mass scheduled to be celebrated on Sunday March 3 at 5:00 in the evening. Bishop Mike Byrne will be the principal celebrant and there will be a reception following that event in their social hall.
- The Funeral Planning workshop was a huge success. There were about 156 people in attendance. Special thanks to Laurie Hall for organizing the event, Mike Wujek from Wujek-Calcaterra and Sons Funeral Home who offered insight into the funerals experience, the folks from Resurrection Cemetery who spoke about burial and cremation options, and Kristy Pudyk, an attorney who spoke about wills, trusts and some of the legal aspects of getting things in order.
- The Finance Council is currently considering a proposed reorganization of the Tithing Committee. This parish began the tithing committee in March of 1991 soon after we paid off the Activity Center (our north campus). Given the high probability of our building a new center on our property and the potential debt we may incur with the construction project, it is likely that we may suspend tithing for a few years as we focus on building our new center. During this time some of the current members of the Tithing committee may be asked to assist Sr. JoAnn Lucas is reviewing policies on the distribution of parish funds to outside organizations. To my knowledge no systemic overview has been conducted on our tithing process since the time of its inception and to date we have distributed about 2 million dollars to outside organizations, a point of real pride for us! No decisions have been made as of yet, but in the interest of keeping people aware of what is on the table, I present this information to you for your consideration.
- Deacon Larry – Excused from the meeting for Scripture Service – per Laurie Hall
- Father Tim
  - Doing what Father Mike asks him to do.

#### **Council Chairperson's Report / Parishioners Viewpoint – Bob**

- New Parishioner Mass – is there a way that we can identify them at the reception so we can talk with them at the reception (Bob)? Laurie suggested that maybe we don't need to have a reception for them, something to think about and discuss at a later time.

- Desert Angel – Bob contacted Claudia to see if the Youth Group would like to take this request on, and she politely declined stating that with everything else that the youth group is involved, she declined. Virginia and Laurie are suggesting that Christian Services might want to take this request. Virginia also mentioned that the 2013 Chili Cook-off is probably the last.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Bob to follow-up with Vernie and Melissa Tuscani to see if Christian Services will be willing to run with it
- Does anyone have any person that they wish to suggest to become a member of the Parish Council (Bob)?
  - Bob received the name of one person at the Mission of Ministries – Dave Peckham
- Is there going to be an end to the counting of parishioners at our masses (Keith)?
  - Father Mike stated that the counting initiative should be completed by the end of this month, February.

### Break

- In Sister Arlene's absence, Virginia provided the snack
- Bob's shared with the group that his son was in Boston and took a picture of a picture who reminded him of Father Mike with hair which he then passed his phone around for all to view – we were all in agreement with Bob's son assessment.

### Old Business

- Census results that were sent out to the community – Bob Murphy
  - 2012 – 2,900 forms were sent out of which 774 forms were returned, 748 had updated info and 26 families were deleted. Many people added or corrected their email addresses; however, of the 748 updated forms, we have email addresses for approximately 650. The largest change submitted was the removal of adult children from household forms.
- Meet, Eat, and Greet
  - February 19<sup>th</sup> St. Michael Parish Council has invited St. Ronald's Parish Council to come to attend at 5:30pm to enjoy a wonderful dinner is being prepared by Virginia Chadwick consisting of Chicken Marcela, Lasagna, Salad, Dessert, Wine, and Pop (mmmm good)!!
  - Six or seven people from St. Ronald's will be joining us at the Meet, Eat, and Greet
  - Approximately 12 members from our Council will be in attendance
- Mission 2013 – Renewal of the Mind and Heart which runs February 16 – February 21, 2013
  - On the weekend the mission begins, February 16-17, we are going to have hospitality (coffee and donuts) after every Mass. This will give people an opportunity to meet the mission team and possibly drum up more excitement for the talks that will follow throughout the week.
  - St. Thomas More Team will be preaching at the following masses:
    - Beginning Saturday, February 16, 2013 at 4:30pm Mass
    - Sunday, February 17 2013 - 8:00am, 9:45am and 11:30am Masses
    - Special Services
      - Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 7:00pm – Reconciliation Service and will be followed by an Ice Cream Social
      - Thursday, February 21, 2013, 7:00pm - Anointing Mass
- Stations of the Cross are being presented once again by different groups such as:
  - Parish Council, February 16, 2013, 3:45pm
  - St. Vincent DePaul
  - Christian Service
  - FLT
- Status of New Activity Center - Included in Father Mike's Report

### New Business

- Discussion Related to Tithing
  - Bob Campbell recommending the suspension of the annual amount of tithing for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Based on this comment the following discussion took place:

- Father Mike – Feels that there is a lot of Tithing that has been continuing for many years which has not been reviewed in many years. There is a strong possibility that we are giving funds to outdated recipients where there may not necessarily be a continuing need of our contributions He feels that this would be a good time to evaluate where our funding is going.
- Keith – after listening to the conversation, he feels that we should not cut back our support
- Mike - feels that the parishioners may not know or understand what Tithing means and how our giving is used – he also stated that if the we decide to suspend our Tithing, then he is afraid that parishioners may misunderstand the message of suspending Tithing and folks may then ask, “why should we give extra funding in support of the special needs organizations that we are asked to contribute?”
- Laurie – mentioned that since our church is currently Tithing 23% of our funding, could we cut it back to what is required, the 10% which would mean that 13% could go to the building fund
- The discussion concluded with a decision to have Sr. JoAnn work with Paul Chancy to review what organizations are receiving our assistance and the review of the Tithing guidelines and bring back to the Parish Council the information that is identified.

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

- **Finance / Stewardship Commission**- Sr. JoAnn
  - Meeting held on January 21, 2013
    - Building Committee Membership – Sr. JoAnn
      - Sr. JoAnn felt we need to determine who is on the “Building Committee”. Current membership is Father Mike, Lou Belli, Paul Chancey, Sr. JoAnn, Tony Pecoraro, Stan Ortwein, Bob Campbell and Jim Toger.
      - Father also asked others to be available as consultants to include; Ray Taylor, Dave Kotal, Ed Biegus, Larry and Kathy Mandzuik.
      - Jim wants to bring the Building Committee and consultants together. Jim stated the Building Committee will meet separately and then report to the Finance Committee.
    - Parish Financial Matters – Judy Taegel
      - Judy distributed the Mass attendance statistics from October 6<sup>th</sup> – January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
      - CLT funds collected to-date is \$331,343.61 of which St. Michael’s has received \$152,742.81.
      - CLT calling campaign has netted us approximately \$60,000.00.
    - Parish Business Matters – Cathy Campbell
      - Two plumbing problems, broken pipe at the church cost about \$15,000 to repair. The problem at the Activity Center in the hallway by the bathrooms required new carpeting to be installed.
      - Small contract signed with Sound Planning to install another jack at the umbel.
      - Parking lot lighting problem was a wiring issue in one of the underground boxes and has been corrected.
      - Stewardship has signed up for Stations of the Cross at Resurrection Cemetery for March 16, 2013.
      - CSA 2013 starts first week of May.
    - Five Year Business Plan – Lou Belli
      - Distributed and reviewed plan for refurbishing the chairs and the warranty information from Adam’s Furniture – total cost \$94,500.00.
      - 100 seats will be done at a time and after inspection of the first batch, the second batch will be sent out.
      - 900 seats may allow for using some of the refurbished seats in the new chapel.
      - Father signed the contract for the chairs.
    - CLT Plan Update – Jim Toger
      - Led the discussion on the selection of the construction company. He distributed the timeline and recapped the process.
      - Committee recommended McCarthy & Smith (M&S) after it was narrowed down to two potential companies.

- M&S have been called back to our Lady of Victory in Northville on 3 separate occasions.
- Cost of pre-construction phase is \$5,000.00.
- Two soil boring proposals and topographical surveys have been received for approximately \$9,000.00.
- Finance Committee unanimously agreed Father Mike should sign the agreement with M&S.
- A loan based on the potential sale of the current Activities Center and the CLT Pledges will give us enough to secure a loan to start construction in April, 2014.
- Tithing Discussion – Bob Campbell
  - Bob Campbell recommending the suspension of the annual amount of tithing for the 2013-2014 fiscal years. His rationale is as follows:
    - Tithing began after all of our previous building projects were completed
    - Presently in a new building process and additional funding is needed
    - His observation that it is foolish to borrow money in order to give it away
  - Father Mike commented:
    - Vernie goes through great pains to make sure that the organizations to which we tithe are complying with our tithing guidelines.
    - We have all the data for the past years' tithing
    - Perhaps this hiatus in tithing is not because of a review of organizations, though it may include that, but a time to take a careful look at our guidelines:
      - Questions of longevity (how long do we give money to a single organization)
      - Common mISSION
      - Amount of grants (if possible ceiling)
      - Receivers responsibilities to us
      - Application process
      - Criteria used by the Tithing Committee for granting money, and policies that they might have
  - Discussion among the members of the Finance Council ensued. One of the several comments that were made was a reminder of our many fundraisers that support various outreach programs. This money comes from our parishioners, even though it doesn't get listed on our parish accounting for the Archdiocese, as it is considered an "In and Out" category. The decision about tithing deserves a more protracted, large discussion on how funds are given away and who makes that determination.
  - Paul Chancey recommended we keep the program of tithing albeit in a reduced form while we review the tithing guidelines. He and Sr. JoAnn will conduct this review with Vernie and come back to the Finance Council in February with their findings. Further discussion will then take place.

○ PROGRESS ON GOALS: –

- Goal 1 - Evangelization

Objective	Status
#1 - Learn the definition of the term evangelization as determined by the AOD	Completed

- Goal 2 – Call All Members

Objective	Status
#1 - Festival of Ministries	On-track, Not sure if there were any additional people signed up for Ministries
<b>NOTE:</b> Bob mentioned St. Vincent DePaul got 7 additional resources who are actively involved	

- Goal 3 – Increase Participation

Objective	Status
#3 – Provide dedicated space for teens and young adults to gather on Parish property	In Progress – Youth Activity room is continuously being talked about to achieve this third goal

	Energy spent around Activity Center
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- **Christian Service** – Sr. Arlene

- There was no meeting in January.
  -
- PROGRESS ON GOALS:
  - Goal 1 - Evangelization

Objective	Status
#1 - Provide, distribute, and maintain a brochure listing our current Mass schedule and distribute to local hotels for travelers.	Provided information on St. Michael Mass schedule is being implemented by having cards with our logo available in nearby hotels and motels.

- Goal 2 – Call All Members

Objective	Status
#1 - Sign a Sunshine Banner at an Ice Cream Social. This would involve creating and signing a banner to send to nursing home, military base, hospital, or other venue where support or advocacy are needed. Publicity will target above demographic.	On-track
<b>NOTE:</b> Bob mentioned St. Vincent DePaul got 7 additional resources who are actively involved	

- Goal 3 – Increase Participation

Objective	Status
#1 – Recruit and train teens to provide a birthday party to seniors. This might involve buying prizes, providing entertainment, assembling favors, and making phone calls to those who signed up at the Festival of Ministries to bring dessert, buy prizes, and provide a present for each resident.	Youth Group is being involved in Christian Service by helping at the Senior Birthday Party and other activities.

- **Worship** – Laurie Hall

- Article in the Messenger is the first in a series for Evangelization.
- PROGRESS ON GOALS:
  - Goal 1 - Evangelization

Objective	Status
#1 - Undertake a learning process to understand “Evangelization”	Completed
#3 - Create a prayer for Evangelization – print in Messenger as a “Cut-out” to keep	Completed – Year of Faith Family Prayer will be printed 12/9; Evangelization Prayer on 12/16.

- Goal 2 – Call All Members

Objective	Status
#1 - Publish articles in the Messenger to explain the Mass clearly so that all who participate understand their role and able to actively participate.....	In progress – Plan completed with articles identified for each month beginning 2013.

- Goal 3 – Increase Participation

Objective	Status
#3 – Enhance current efforts to engage teens following their Confirmation. Incorporate information into lesson plans.....	In Progress – Working with Youth Minister to revamp communication to recently confirmed.

- **Education** – Virginia Chadwick

- PROGRESS ON GOALS:

- Goal 1 - Evangelization

Objective	Status
#1 - Offer formation of Evangelization	Completed
# 2 - Highlight the aspects of evangelization(through the Messenger and commission sub-groups) in our current work – FLT, Youth, and Adult Formation	Ongoing

- Goal 2 – Call All Members

Objective	Status
#1 - Use parish census to contact all parishioners with children ages 4 through 14 who are not currently enrolled in FLT and invite them to join.	Completed and will be continued yearly
#2 - Expand Festival of Ministries to include personal witnessing and personal invitation.	Completed
#3 - Reach out to parents of newly baptized babies instead of waiting until the children are 4 years old.	Timing date changed to 2013-2014 larger objective and in process

- Goal 3 – Increase Participation

Objective	Status
#1 – Invite all youth, especially the newly Confirmed, to assist in FLT classes, Sunday School, Sunday Fun 4 Kids and / or CLW	Timing date changed to 2013-2014
#2 - Be available to consult with all committees, commissions, and ministries, and parish organizations of the parish Youth Vision Statement.	See letter addressed to Parish Council and other commissions.
#3 - Invite commissions to speak to Confirmation candidates into full participation into the life of the church.	Timing changed to summer 2013 because Confirmation candidates program is in summer.

- **Vicariate** – Phyllis Rizzi

- The meeting was held on Monday, January 14 at St. Ephrem’s Activity Center. The Vicar, Fr. Ron Milligan outlined the topics covered earlier that day at the Prysbyteral/Vicars Meeting.

- Vicariate Input: Feedback regarding “in solidum” parish care. In 1983 the Catholic Church introduced the possibility of entrusting the pastoral care, of one or more parishes, to a team of priests in solidum. This model is viewed as a practical way of promoting pastoral co-responsibility, as well as fostering a greater sense of the presbyterium among the priests of the diocese.
    - The Archbishop suggested that one advantage of using this model is, should there be a priest who lacked specific skills, i.e. management skills, and then another priest could make up his deficit.
    - A discussion ensued regarding that some priests in the 70’s had experimented with “co-pastorates” and while some were successful, others were not.



- The Archbishop suggested that one very positive experience would be the mutual support that is sorely needed in the priesthood today. He also opined that such a model would provide mentoring for the next generation of City pastors (those in urban ministry)
- Changing Together Lives Update: Wave Four is finishing and Wave Five has begun – so far total pledges amount to 72 million.
- Rev. Tim Hogan reported that there is a May Retreat for Clergy. He also reminded us that there is much to be gained from attending one of these clergy retreats. They encourage a sense of fraternity among our priests.
- Fr. Alex Kratz, O.F.M. gave a presentation on Evangelization. He is our Regional Evangelization Coordinator.
- We then broke up into smaller groups and evaluated our Parishes Christian Commission in relation to Together in Faith II Pastoral Priorities. St. Michael's Christian Service is very much in line with the same.
- I expressed a welcome to all the Parishes in the Vicariate to attend our Lenten Mission and passed out flyers with all the information to them.
- Ida Johns who is our new Youth Ministry Representative introduced herself to the Vicariate members and said she will be attending future CMVPC meeting.
- St. Leonard Church has a Montessori School interested in buying the site and there is a need for the Deaf Center which meets at the Church and also a place for the Leonard House, which is a house for released convicts upon their release from prison. If any Parish in the Vicariate could help out these groups it would be appreciated.
- Meeting ended with a prayer. Next meeting will be Feb. 18.)
- **Youth** – ???
  - None

#### Roundtable

- **ACTION ITEM:** Kim to update the Parish Council Membership Roster document, add Laurie's information to the Staff List as she is part of the Staff in addition to the Worship committee.
- Father Mike - thanked everyone for their candor and honesty during the Tithing discussion.
- Kim – thanks to Father Tim for sharing a wonderful enrichment relating to his home country

**Closing Prayer** – Bob

**Meeting Assessment** – Excellent meeting, a little long but overall pretty good discussion with everyone contributing.

**Meeting Adjournment** – 9:38 PM

**Next Meeting** – March 5, 2013

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kim Kook**