

**St Michael Catholic Community
Parish Council Minutes
October 7, 2014**

Attendees: (see completed chart immediately below)

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

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

1) MEETING OPENING

- a. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mike Sandelich.
- b. **Reading of the Mission Statement** – Attendees read the St Michael Catholic Community Mission Statement.
- c. **Opening Prayer** – Attendees read the opening prayer led by Amy Smolarz.
- d. **Approval of Minutes** – The September 2, 2014 minutes were approved by Amy Smolarz and Shirley Sukes.
- e. **Other:**

2) PASTORAL TEAM REPORTS

- a. **Fr. Mike:** No report.
- b. **Fr. Tim:** No report.
- c. **Pastoral Associate - Laurie:** Per written report received:

“Here is my Pastoral Team Report:

Festival of Ministries was again a wonderful, well-attended event! There were so many people after 9:45 and 11:30 Masses that you could hardly move! The new games were very well received, the ice cream cart was a sell-out and the basket raffle remained a big draw. All

commissions indicated good participation, which is important. But, more importantly, it was a wonderful way to thank the people of St. Michael who so graciously minister in so many ways.

RCIA began on October 5th – still one catechumen and one candidate at this time. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful set of five experienced catechists and two sponsors who are assisting and discerning the call to be RCIA catechists. We have decided to continue with regular Sunday programming in order to provide a thorough and consistent experience for the two participating at this time and to be ready for those who will join us as the year progresses. Please pray for our catechumen and candidate as they begin this journey.

We celebrated quite a number of baptisms this last month – some on the scheduled second Sunday of the month and several on other dates. We continue to be open to the many needs of parishioners and non-parishioners when it comes to administering this sacrament.

We celebrated quite a number of funerals as well. It is important to note that, in addition to the many funerals celebrated here, there are many more performed at funeral homes in the area. We will also be celebrating our annual All Souls Memorial Mass on Sunday, November 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Traditionally, we ask the Parish Council members to serve as greeters, ushers and hosts for the reception following. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet and directions for the ministry will be provided.

We are currently discussing Adult Formation opportunities for this year – a speaker from Catholic Charities of Michigan, possibly a session with Fr. Mike for divorced people in the Church and LGBT people in the Church. . There is also another series available from Word on Fire that is being considered for Lent. We are always open to suggestions from parishioners – please feel free to talk with me if you have ideas.”

Regarding the November 2nd Memorial Mass, a sign-up sheet was passed around to the Parish Council members asking for 4 ushers and 4 greeters to volunteer. Greeters need to provide warm greetings, and to distribute candles (1 per family). We had 140 funeral services last year at this Parish, and that does not include additional ones performed for non-Catholics and other funeral services.

There’s lots of opportunities for adult formation. Regarding Baptism preparation we can always use people to help.

Wake Service Ministry – some people who signed up backed out once they more fully realized what it involved. The Ministry involves discerning family wishes and then working to fulfill them, and it requires thinking fast on your feet, and reading people properly. Peoples’ nerves are raw, so it requires proper touch and sensitivity. There are training materials available so you’re not just left on your own.

3) CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT / PARISHIONERS’ VIEWPOINT

Chairman Mike: Mike shared that he had some coincidences occur in his life since our last meeting, during a trip to Pittsburg, and that he thought about some email criticisms received and that he did

some research looking back at our Constitution and Bylaws. Mike then distributed a document to attendees titled “St. Michael Catholic Community Parish Council Structure of Meetings” outlining a new meeting format for Parish Council to follow in order to be more efficient and effective at our meetings. Mike reviewed the contents within the document which included an explanation that from now during new business, resolutions will be presented in the form of a motion, and if seconded, then discussed. If no one seconds the motion, then it is lost. If Commissions want to present updates under New Business, they can. Mike explained that our Constitution states Commissions will provide semi-annual written reports to Parish Council detailing progress in achieving goals and objectives. And so Commissions will present those written reports in January and June. Also, if people want enrichment to be a part of the meeting, then we can vote on it. Mike stated he intends on bringing this topic up under new business.

4) ENRICHMENT REFLECTION FEEDBACK

Following up on an enrichment assignment distributed at the September 2, 2014 Parish Council meeting, for Parish Council members to reflect upon and share their reasons for coming to church, Chairman Mike read the exercise aloud and opened the floor to discussion:

Fr. Mike said he would rather not at this time go over this.

Phyllis said she looks forward to going to church and that she looks forward to it now as she needs it and that she gets a lot out of it.

Susie said she likes going to church, and not out of obligation. She likes the singing, meeting people, and it reminds her that the world does not revolve around her and that there are people out there in the world worse off than you. It's a great way to start off her week. She enjoys coming. She feels it's her second home. Everybody supported her when she lost her mom and were very caring. It's like a family.

Bob said for him it's for formation. And he said that Phyllis and Susie gave great information. He'd like to go every day. It's a great reset button, especially after watching TV and interacting with the world for a while.

Jamey said by-products of coming here are family values. Throughout the week things happen and then they come to Mass and it addresses the same issues. He didn't become Catholic until later in his life and now if he doesn't come to Mass on Sunday his whole week is shot. He's met a lot of good people here too.

Mike said he sees it as a touchstone. At home you get radio, television and internet. You come here and it's bedrock. This is where things get sorted out from good and bad. And he loves singing.

Jim said he concurs. Coming to church resets the moral compass. Catholic churches are meant to be full. He feels it's his responsibility to develop his children and this helps.

Les – he's been to churches around the world and he feels relaxed and welcomed here.

Shirley – she went to Catholic schools and was taught it's a sin not to go. They were taught God does so much for us and that we can take an hour out of our week for Him. Later in life she strayed away and then after coming back she realized she was missing something and now she loves coming and singing and to do a better job. She's received encouraging feedback that's inspired her.

Renato – he agreed with everything stated by others previously and added how he was raised Catholic and went to Catechism and then he too had strayed away for years but then how something happened in his life and that of one of his relatives, that he'd rather not get into right now, that strengthened his faith and has him coming back regularly now. He added having read a quote before in Our Daily Bread that went something like "Churches are not a place for saints, but rather a hospital for sinners" and he couldn't agree more. Laurie then said that quote was originally from St Francis of Assisi.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- a. Review of Goals for Commissions: Mike tabled this topic for later.

6) BREAK: Amy provided snacks and refreshments.

5) OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

- b. Activity Center:

Fr Mike discussed we had some construction changes and problems that caused a lot of stress and affected how we're doing funerals, and fortunately we got that issue taken care of. But this past Sunday we sprung a seal leak in an intake water main that feeds the rest of the plumbing. Sr JoAnn said the expenses will be in the thousands of dollars. Fr Mike said we did successfully change over the water main and this weekend we should be able to reopen the main entrance way. We're making a concerted effort to communicate with people. It's the peoples' church and their money we're spending. Week-to-week in the Bulletin we're providing updates. Sr JoAnn also mentioned DTE is doing some work but that it takes a while to do.

- c. Commissions – Status Updates Towards Achieving Goals:

1. **Stewardship** – Sr. JoAnn Lucas

No report. Sr. JoAnn noted regarding the Activity Center construction project, that she stressed to contractor McCarty that whatever they do they should not interfere with funerals. Sr. JoAnn said she will go back and check with Dave and make sure McCarty is following what was agreed to.

2. **Worship** – Laurie Hall

Sr. JoAnn motioned (seconded by Phyllis) to enter the following written report provided by Laurie on behalf of the commission into the minutes:

"Here is the October 2014 report for the Worship Commission:

The Worship Commission will meet at the end of this month; they meet only four times per year. In preparation for this meeting, Festival of Ministries commitments/recommitments were communicated with the Commission. Three new members have committed to join the Commission. We had 225 forms turned in to the Worship office during Festival of Ministries. Of those 225 forms, approximately 500 ministry positions were filled. Many people commit or recommit to more than one ministry. It is a blessing to see so many parishioners involved in the

many and varied works of the parish. At our late October meeting, we will review the role of the Worship Commission, review current goals and establish objectives to meet those goals. We will also begin coordinating Advent plans.”

3. **Christian Service** – Virginia Chadwick

Phyllis motioned (seconded by Renato) to enter the following written report provided by Virginia on behalf of the commission:

“Christian Service Commission Report to Parish Council

The commission met for the first time on September 18, 2014 with approx. 22 in attendance. Of the 22 in attendance, 5 were new members to the commission who signed up at Festival of Ministries. We had a total of 123 people commit and recommit to our various projects and activities at Festival of Ministries. Our meeting was exciting as we found volunteers to facilitate each and every activity or project for the coming year – 4 of the 5 new members will facilitate a number of events. Michelle reminded everyone about the need to be patient and flexible as we share our valuable commodity—space within the building! There will be a midweek Habitat for Humanity build occurring on 10/22 and our St. Michael Gleaners Community Food Bank Team currently has 27 volunteers. We are hoping to reach the 40 total by October 18, the day of the event.” And per a written handout passed out,

“After this past weekend Respect Life Sunday IVC Speaker Bev Clark we got 61 volunteers and 3 new clients. If you know any elderly neighbors in the parish boundaries that need assistants have them call Michelle Hayes.”

4. **Christian Education** – Virginia Chadwick

No report.

5. **Vicariate** – Phyllis Rizzi

Shirley motioned (seconded by Sr. JoAnn) to enter the following written report provided by Phyllis into the minutes:

“CENTRAL MACOMB VICIARIATE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 29, 2014, ST. EPHREM PARISH

Jason Shanks, spoke on Catholic Charities of Southeast MI. Last year they served 11,000 people and due to decreased funding a collection for their continued work will be held the week-end before Thanksgiving at all Parishes in the Archdiocese.

VICARS REPORT Msgr. Laginess reported that the enrollment this year is 118, down by 5 from last year.

Bishop Byrnes said 50 people have been recruited as teams to help the process for the Synod to be held in the Fall of 2016.

Ad Hoc Committee – Pastoral Ownership (Schools Report) – Fr. Mark Brauer. Bishop Cepeda will be meeting with the Archbishop within the next two weeks to update him.

The Study Group for the CSA is almost completed.

Central Services will be relocating as of Nov. 6th to 12 State Street. Reason for the move was more cost effective.

Msgr. Hogan reported that there are five more meetings left to discuss the financial changes regarding clergy. He also spoke on the New Evangelization and challenged deacons to be better Leaders of Prayer.

Archbishop Vigneron was interviewed by the New York Times regarding the MASS MOB at different Parishes in Detroit and was told that the Detroit MASS MOB has a stronger lift to it. Both the Archbishop and Mayor Duggan are joining together to invite Pope Francis to stop in Detroit when he is in the country.

Deacon Bill Kolarik shared the results of the Perceptions of the Faithful Survey which were compiled from 23 Parishes in our Central Macomb Vicariate. It included Catholic population facts, Financial stats, U.S. census stats, and Sacramental stats.”

Mike asked about the MASS MOB, and a brief discussion followed about how it’s a gathering of people who come to Mass at various churches and provide their financial support.

6. **Youth** – Vacant

No report. Mike S will approach Claudia Welbes about getting this representative.

7. **Evangelization Committee** – Bob Murphy

Bob recalled a formation exercise and how it captivated him, and how Laurie suggested he be an evangelization director. He shared advice that one should just be yourself and use the tools God gave you when you were baptized, when evangelizing. Bob said we’re really good at knowing Christ as a Church, but we’re not good at sharing it. Bob shared how a friend of his told him that he’s going to start going to church, and Bob recalled never mentioning church to his friend, and Bob thought his friend’s comments may have been said because of the way Bob carried himself, but for sure he felt evangelization is powerful stuff. Bob shared that he feels changes occurring in him the more he does it (evangelizes) and that anybody can do it.

Bob played a video demonstrating a portion of a 3-part “Christ Life” program that includes 1. Discovering Christ, 2. Following Christ (more about the Sacraments and going to church), and 3. Sharing Christ.

Karen and Laurie have volunteered to help Bob get this program promoted more at this Parish.

After attendees watched the video, Bob asked for our thoughts about it. Laurie talked about how real the people in the video were. You can see how the people have been transformed.

Bob quoted Pope Francis about how we need saints, explained in a simple everyday way about everyday people. Bob said we can't make saints out of people but that we can foster an environment to make saints.

Mike asked how spaced apart will these sessions be. The first part will occur during September-October of 2015; the second part will occur during January 2015 - February 2016; and the third part will occur during Lent 2016.

Mike asked about how many people he'd need to administer the program, and Bob stated about 10 people per table with 10 tables and that they'd need to be trained.

Bob shared that the facilitator will be your same facilitator for the entire 7-week program, which helps with developing trust with participants.

Laurie asked about what time we'd need to staff the program, as it seemed this coming January might be about the right time.

Bob played an additional video about how nothing you can ever do can make God love you any less.

7) NEW BUSINESS

Amy motioned to hear a report from Virginia and Sr. JoAnn seconded the motion.

Virginia provided the following written report, and Amy motioned (seconded by Shirley) to enter the report into the minutes:

"FLT report to Parish Council

Goal 1:

Objective 2) Emphasize the teaching that the people are the church and that parents (or adult Catholics of faith who love them) are the primary faith sharers with their children by publishing the quotes printed every week in the FLT column on page 3 of the Messenger.

Objective 3) We are doubling our effort to have everyone sign up for remind.com (a free text or email service) by highlighting the positive aspects of immediate communication and making sign up very easy as it was part of the required parent meeting the first day of FLT classes.

In an attempt to evangelize our registered families and encourage celebration of the mass on the weekends, we continue to invite all children to bring both their children's envelopes and food for the hungry to each mass.

New this year, you may see some yellow “hard hats” at mass. Children and catechists have been given hard hats and are invited to wear them both to class and to mass. When they have a hard hat on, they will be given a sticker at class and when worn to mass, they can choose a sticker from the marked basket in the East Gathering space. We hope to see many hard hats filling with stickers this year as we celebrate our faith in a construction zone. We’re building a new church space, literally, but as believers, we are the church together and we’re also building our church as we learn more about our faith and what difference our faith should make in our lives.

The hard hat is a symbol of that teaching. The hard hats are also intended to improve church attendance among our families with younger children.

Hard hats are available in the parish office for children who do not have one.

Please mention that Confirmation is Wed. Nov. 5 at 7p with Bishop Cepeda. I intend to ask the Knights of Columbus for help with parking as it will be challenging this year.”

Laurie requested to have a discussion regarding the new meeting format Mike presented earlier in session, and Karen motioned and Phyllis seconded it.

Laurie shared that she’s particularly concerned about enrichment being removed. Bob stated if we don’t have enrichment at the meetings then a lot will be lost from these meetings and Bob would not even be here on this day with us. Karen stated its part of what she gets out of parish council. Laurie stated keeping us focused is also limiting our discussion. Renato stated that the new format feels too rigid although perhaps over time we could get more used to it. Renato brought up the provision in the Parish Council Constitution that addresses using parliamentary procedure only as a last resort if consensus can’t be reached and asked whether we have reached that point, and Mike said we have.

Fr Mike said this (Parish Council) is where he gets his primary input to direct this Parish. He said he does not understand Robert’s Rules of Order. This is what grounds him in his ministry. He can’t do this without the input from this body (Parish Council). Fr. said he can’t make these decisions without input from this Council. This is a very important meeting to him and he never misses them and the primary take-away he gets is our advice. Fr. would be very hesitant to limit discussion. Fr. doesn’t want to weigh-in onto how decisions are made. Without our input he wouldn’t be able to respond the way he does while performing his work. Fr. doesn’t share the opinion that nothing gets done at these meetings. This forum is extremely important regardless of how it’s run.

At 9:00 PM Renato motioned to extend the meeting 30 minutes and Bob seconded it.

Laurie stated this new meeting format was dictated to us and that it would be better served if we worked together to derive the format. We need to bring love into the room. This new format disrupts that. The work of this business is pastoral.

Karen stated she feels we're doing amazing things, and that the ministries are working hard. She doesn't want to raise a motion every time we speak. It feels way too formal and she doesn't feel she can operate this way.

Virginia shared that she felt our last meeting went well. She stated that both when Bob (Murphy) and (when) her were Chairpersons that they would meet with Fr. Mike to set the meeting (agenda) together.

Laurie stated liturgy is the work of the people and it's messy. And the meetings do not have to be perfect. Mike said perfection is not nearly where he's going. Instead it's a sense of that we accomplished something.

Sr. JoAnn said we're getting hung up on making motions instead of content. Can we just have discussion without a motion?

Jamey shared that flexibility is very important. Having an agenda with structure but also having an open dialogue is important.

Mike stated the format he proposed was designed to give everybody a chance to speak and have an opinion and to give their ideas.

Amy said she agrees with Mike that we do not need to hear from every commission month after month as she feels it's redundant. She likes the two report-outs annually.

A vote then occurred and passed that Council members do not need to present new business in the form of a motion to discuss a topic.

A vote then occurred and passed to keep enrichment as a standing agenda topic at our meetings.

Mike stated the question remaining on enrichment now is how, which we will address at the next meeting.

Renato then brought up that based on his understanding of Fr. Mike's comments today that the purpose of these Parish Council meetings is to advise Fr. Mike on matters and for the Council members to do enrichment activities, that in his (Renato's) opinion that's fine, however, that's not currently what the Constitution states and that we should get the verbiage aligned then. Fr. Mike then agreed.

8) MEETING CLOSING

a. Closing Prayer – Attendees read a closing prayer led by Amy Smolarz.

b. Meeting Assessment – It was generally agreed that we had a successful meeting.

c. Meeting Adjournment – 9:47 PM motion to close meeting by Laurie, seconded by Amy.

d. Next Meeting – November 4, 2014