

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)  
PASTORAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
NOVEMBER 22, 2022 @ 7:00 PM**

Present (*In person*): Fr. Vargas, B. Choquette (Chair), M. Tapuska (Secretary), L. Iovinelli, N. McIntosh, T. Novecosky, P. Tan, A. Valdez, P. Van de Mosselaer  
(*By conference call*): S. Gaela, B. Popp

Guest: M. McGee, Chairman of SMCC Finance Council

**AGENDA**

**1. Opening Prayer**

A brief reflection on St. Cecilia, martyred for her faith, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, both of whom consecrated themselves to a Christian way of life. Members of Pastoral Council (“PC”) are also called upon to make a difference and have a great responsibility to lead the community.

**2. Introduction of Chairman of SMCC Finance Council**

A good working relationship should be fostered between PC and Finance Council.

**3. “Personal Vision”**

The Chair shared his personal vision to unite the community, especially important after the COVID restrictions.

**4. Personal Goals for members of Pastoral Council for 2022 – 2023**

Each member of PC present at the meeting was invited to reflect on his/her personal goal for SMCC.

**PAST ACTION ITEMS REVISTED**

**A. Kids’ Kingdom (Update):**

No coordinator is in place yet. All volunteers must be accredited.

Schools may be a good place to advertise for a coordinator.

It was noted that a parishioner has been approached and is interested in taking on the position of Coordinator for Kids’ Kingdom.

Discussion as to whether the position should be a paid/staff position.

**Action:** The parishioner will be contacted directly to confirm her interest and a follow-up will be provided at the next meeting.

**Action:** The former coordinator of Kids' Kingdom will be contacted for direction in preparing a job description for the role of coordinator.

**B. Youth Ministry (Update):**

This matter will be addressed after the NET Youth Retreats this coming weekend to consider steps going forward. The issue continues to be a shortage of volunteers to implement and run the programs.

**Action:** None at the present.

**C. Ministry Weekend (Thank you to Volunteer Coordinator of SMCC for organizing this event):**

**Action:** A thank you card will be sent on behalf of PC.

**D. Chapel Changes (Update if available):**

The contract for the work has been awarded. There will be a meeting with the contractor and progress will be published in the new year. Items recommended by the now defunct Interior Enhancement committee have been considered. Changes are pastorally OK.

**Action:** Progress on work in the Day Chapel to re-locate the Marian Grotto and to give a permanent home to the Divine Mercy image of Jesus will be published in the New Year.

**NEW ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Interior Enhancement (Update if available):**

Parishioners have been wondering if interior enhancements will go ahead. All items regarding interior enhancements should be addressed to Fr. Vargas by email. All efforts are being made to increase the aesthetic appeal inside the building.

**Action:** None at the present.

**B. Saturday Mass for "Marian Ministry":**

There have been requests that there be a Saturday morning Mass for the Marian Ministry. During discussion it was noted that there is still an issue with getting enough volunteers, including Sacristans, to ensure that doors are unlocked and that everything is in place for the Mass. Additionally, the work/life balance for the priests should be considered. Currently, a Saturday morning Mass is not feasible.

**Action:** None at the present.

**C. Celebration of Mass on Fridays to be held in the Sanctuary year-round:**

There have been requests that Friday morning Masses be held in the Sanctuary instead of in the Day Chapel (as happened over the summer). People are wary of there not being enough space in the Day Chapel to accommodate the larger congregation at Friday Masses.

**Moved** that the celebration of morning Mass on Fridays be held in the Sanctuary year-round. **The motion was approved.**

**Action:** Celebration of Mass on Fridays will be held in the Sanctuary year-round.

**D. Printed Bulletin – Requested by Seniors:**

There was discussion regarding the whether there should be a return to offering printed bulletins as many seniors do not have access to electronically published bulletins. It was suggested that monthly printed bulletins be offered to accommodate monthly financial reports, etc. Fr. Vargas requested that a printed bulletin for Christmas Day be made available in anticipation of increased attendance. Brief discussion around whether advertising should be allowed including some of the pitfalls associated with advertising.

Fr. Vargas also suggested that a copy of the minutes of PC meetings be included with the monthly bulletins to increase parishioners' awareness of what PC is doing.

**Moved** that printed bulletins be made available monthly. **The motion was approved.**

**Action:** A printed bulletin for Christmas Day and a monthly printed bulletin starting in January will be made available.

**Action:** The office will be included in the monthly distribution of the PC meeting minutes for inclusion in the subsequent monthly bulletin.

**E. Security - During weekend Masses:**

On-site security during weekend Masses was discussed. The issue has been raised because a gentleman has been coming into the building on Sunday mornings, wandering in and out of Mass and throughout the building. As the church doors are open for Mass, the person cannot be considered a trespasser. The need for having at least one usher stationed in the Gathering Area throughout Mass was discussed. This is advisable for the additional reason that money is collected in containers in the Gathering Area and at the back of the Sanctuary. Requesting one usher to be stationed in the Gathering Area during weekend Masses can be formally included in

the job description for ushers. This new approach and the issue of security will be revisited in the new year.

**Action:** The Hospitality Coordinators for each of the Sunday Masses will be asked to station one usher in the Gathering Area for the duration of Mass.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **A. Hymns used during Sunday Mass:**

A member of PC has reached out to people who have stopped attending Mass. The common concern was the music at Masses and the desire to return to familiar hymns. There was robust discussion regarding styles and preferences of music: traditional (familiar) and contemporary. There are published sources for Music Coordinators to consult for Sunday Masses for music that is appropriate to the liturgy. It was noted that the Music Director makes every effort to offer both traditional and contemporary music and that feedback from Mass attendees has been positive.

### **B. Attending PC meetings by Zoom for members unable to attend in person:**

A laptop is being purchased for this purpose and the option to join by zoom will be available. The zoom link for a meeting will be provided in the agenda for that meeting.

### **C. Some ministries are requiring assistance handling the ordering of books for Study Groups as well as more flexibility of rooms that can be used:**

A request was made that the office resume the ordering of books and materials for studies. Currently, anything that is ordered is placed on one person's credit card (whether staff or volunteer). In view of this, it is recommended that members of study groups continue to purchase their own materials.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **A. Introducing PC Members at Sunday Mass (November 26 & 27):**

PC members will be commissioned at Masses on November 26 & 27 (as well as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion). There is no need for PC members to attend all Masses, just the one they are planning on attending.

**CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT** at 8:45 pm.