

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

Present (*In person*): Fr. Vargas, B. Choquette (Chair), M. Tapuska (Secretary), A. Bitter, G. Brand, L. Iovinelli, T. Klassen, N. McIntosh, T. Novecosky, B. Popp, K. Renger, P. Tan, P. Van de Mosselaer

M. McGee, Chairman of SMCC Finance Council

Absent: Fr. Bustalino, S. Gaela, A. Valdez

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Moved that the minutes from the September 26, 2023, meeting of PC be approved. The motion was approved.

ITEMS TO REVISIT FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

1. Communication Coordinator

A comprehensive presentation was made at the last meeting (Discussion Points included in September 26 meeting minutes). Following last meeting, PC members had the following comments:

- a consideration of the overall size of the staff going forward;
- one of the tasks of the position would be to maintain a current website;
- the position would involve strategic thinking across all ministries;
- wouldn’t work well as a volunteer position because of confidentiality issues (must be a staff position);
- perhaps the position could be shared with another parish (in particular, Ascension Parish is also seeking a Communication Coordinator); and
- is there room in the budget for another staff position.

Fr. Vargas asked that the Diocese is consulted to determine the hiring criteria for a Communication Coordinator and that a draft is prepared for next PC meeting.

Action: A draft document outlining the hiring criteria for a Communication Coordinator will be presented at the next PC meeting.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Any inaccuracies that are found on the website should be brought to the attention of Fr. Vargas by email.

2. Ministry of the Week/Ministry Brochures Update

Nothing to add from the last meeting. A reiteration of the idea that one ministry be featured each week with a description of that ministry on the drop-down screen, or in a brochure, or in the bulletin.

Fr. Vargas noted that all ministries should prepare a brochure providing pertinent details such as a basic description of the ministry, time commitment, requirements to join, and who to contact. These brochures could be placed in the gathering area.

Action: The Volunteer Coordinator will be asked to contact the ministries asking that a brochure as described above be prepared for each ministry. Fr. Vargas will be copied on all correspondence.

3. Memorial Mass Update/Bulletin Invitation to Parishioners

The Memorial Mass will be held on November 2 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, with a reception to follow. A parishioner is organizing the reception. The Columbarium Manager is sending an invitation to families who have deceased loved ones in the Columbarium. A bulletin announcement is also being prepared for the coming weekend.

4. Fr. Vargas's Sunday Message to include a short video "The Mass"

The idea of including short excerpts explaining parts of the Mass in Fr. Vargas' weekly bulletin message was discussed at the last meeting. This idea was well received. It was noted that discussion would be needed as to the order of the videos. Fr. Vargas thought that this could be part of the Diocesan Renewal.

Action: The video links will be sent to Fr. Vargas so they can be included in his weekly message.

5. Reintroducing Flocknote to the parishioners

Since the September PC meeting, Flocknote was contacted and gave us information about ways to increase parishioner uptake on Flocknote. One suggestion is to have a "sign-up" Sunday. This could happen over a couple of weekends: the first weekend would involve explaining what Flocknote is, why it is useful and encouraging parishioners to bring their phones to church the following weekend. On "sign-up" Sunday, a few minutes before or after Mass could be devoted to going through the actual sign-up procedure. A PC member is willing to make the presentations at Masses.

6. **Inviting our parishioners to PC meetings**

After discussion, it was decided that our monthly bulletin message will include a standing item inviting parishioners as observers to our meetings.

7. **Blood Donor Clinic**

A letter to Canadian Blood Services asking that SMCC be included in their rotation to host a blood donor clinic was prepared and sent after the last PC meeting. No response has been received.

Action: Follow up with CBS.

NEW ITEMS

8. **Eucharistic Miracles Display**

In preparation for tonight's meeting, two videos were sent to members of PC featuring a Eucharistic Procession in New York City led by Fr. Mike Schmitz. (Links to the videos can be found on page 7 of these minutes.)

It was noted that there is a eucharistic renewal movement in the United States and that Sacred Heart recently hosted the Eucharistic Miracles (EM) Display. In his recent book *This is My Body*, Bishop Robert Barron wrote that only one-third of Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharistic (as per a 2019 survey by Pew Forum). Considering the foregoing, could SMCC consider hosting the EM display and possibly, a procession such as that shown in the videos. There was agreement with these ideas.

Item tabled until next meeting.

Action: Investigation will be made into the Eucharistic Miracles Display with the view of hosting it at SMCC when it is available. There could also be a procession.

Action: Fr. Vargas can speak on the Eucharist for three evenings in Advent.

9. **Bishop Barron's book *This is My Body***

Each member of PC was given a copy of the book.

10. **Extending Adoration Hours/lights in the Day Chapel**

Some parishioners have asked if Holy Hour can be extended beyond 10:30 am on Friday mornings. Fr. Vargas noted that the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open until 8:00 pm for adoration.

11. Poster Display chronicling the construction of St. Michael's Church

Fr. Vargas was thanked for allowing this to be displayed. It was in the Gathering Area (now to be known as the Narthex) for St. Michael's Feast Day and Mass. It is still in the Mezzanine but will be taken down soon. It was well received and was useful to explain how various features of our church figure into the liturgy. It was suggested that perhaps this could be made into a booklet or become an annual display to coincide with St. Michael's Feast Day on September 29.

Action: An item for the bulletin will be created to explain the significance of the display.

12. "GRACE"

This stands for Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education. Their goal is to bring awareness to Catholic education as it is constantly under attack, which can vary depending on the government in power. It was noted that there are prayers from September to June for Catholic education that could be incorporated into the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass. Further, GRACE may be an avenue to bring more youth back to attending church. PC was asked to consider if a GRACE group should be established at SMCC as promoting Catholic education has a direct link to parishes.

Action: Prayers will be submitted for inclusion in the Prayers of the Faithful.

13. Announcements

It was noted that the idea of making after-Mass announcements was discussed before the end of the summer and was to be formalized and implemented in September but hasn't been addressed. It was noted that instructions are needed.

Action: The "announcement" committee will re-convene and will meet with Fr. Vargas to formalize the format/protocols.

14. Printed Bulletins

Parishioners and members of the Hospitality Ministry have been asking for the return of printed bulletins. It was noted that they are a useful form of media and a good way for Hospitality Members to connect with members of the parish. More consistency is needed in their availability. As such, could they be printed every week? Sometimes, unused bulletins end up being recycled. It was suggested that 300 be printed every week as a starting point and if more are needed, more could be printed.

Action: 300 bulletins will be printed each week.

15. Publishing Homilies on Website

Requests have been made that homilies be published on the website. Fr. Vargas explained that this is a personal decision and up to the individual priest.

16. Lease of “front property” at SMCC

The Diocese of Calgary has been approached about leasing land on St. Michael’s property to an American fast-food chain. It would generate revenues of approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000/year.

There was vigorous discussion regarding the proposal among PC members, including:

- rezoning issues;
- a fast-food outlet is not aligned with our values;
- there are other uses for the property;
- aesthetics;
- revenue-generation; and
- parking issues.

It was noted that the Finance Council is obliged to look at the pros and cons of the proposal.

All discussions to date are exploratory and nothing has been decided. The final decision rests with the Pastor. It was noted that there must be transparency.

17. Maintenance of the Baptismal Font

It was noted that as flu and cold season is here, maintenance of the baptismal font and frequent application of bromide is necessary. The caretakers apply bromide on a regular schedule.

18. Parishioner Concern regarding south entrance

People have complained about having to be quiet at the south entrance. It was agreed that the sign asking for quiet between the Blessed Sacrament and Day Chapels is reasonable and that quiet reverence between the two chapels is appropriate. More reminders could be given. Parishioners are welcome to visit in the Gathering Space (now known as the Narthex).

19. Parishioner Concern: “lockdown syndrome” apparent in our church

There is a parishioner concern that SMCC has a Covid lockdown syndrome that should be removed. The consensus among PC members is that SMCC is gradually coming back to being as open and welcoming as before, but that it takes time to return to fully “normal”.

ADDITIONAL ITEM: Fr. Vargas noted that he has been in discussions with Michael Chiasson. There is a lot of interest in the youth program. He is looking into how to widen it.

CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT at 8:50 pm

NEXT MEETING OF PC

November 28, 2023

Eucharistic Procession - Videos

[NYC EUCHARISTIC PROCESSIONyoutu.be](#)

[Christ in NYC | World called to REPENT in time of WARyoutu.be](#)