

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2024 @ 7:00 PM**

Present (*In person*): Fr. Vargas, (acting Chair), Fr. Chukwurah, M. Tapuska (Secretary), A. Bitter, L. Iovinelli, T. Klassen, M. McGee (Chair, SMCC Finance Council), M. Nasse, B. Popp, K. Renger, P. Tan, P. Van de Mosselaer
Absent: G. Brand, B. Choquette, D. Helton, N. McIntosh, A. Valdez

Opening Prayer

Items to revisit from September meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2024, meeting of PC

Moved that the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting of PC be approved. **Seconded.**
The motion was approved.

2. Offertory Baskets Update

Remarks prefaced by noting that the new Coordinator of the Hospitality Ministry has been consulted. With respect to the introduction of collection baskets after the September meeting of PC, the following insights were shared.

- It's hard to change long standing procedures.
- There are not enough volunteers (although some recruiting has been done at Masses.)
- Volunteers are not back in time for the Consecration, which is a concern.
- Communication issues: decisions made by PC cannot always be implemented immediately and it's not respectful to implement new procedures without first notifying the volunteers involved (some of the volunteers were taken by surprise).
- The Hospitality Ministry is amid a leadership transition and there should be respect shown to the new coordinator who has been away and who was not part of the decision made in September to re-introduce basket collection.

Fortunately, most of the issues identified above have been resolved, but patience is needed while the Hospitality Ministry determines the best way to manage basket collection.

Discussion followed. It was noted that PC had made the decision to implement basket collection the weekend of September 28/29 as it had been advertised in the bulletin. Basket collection is important to increase revenues.

The Presider at Mass can watch the collection process to ensure that it is finished before proceeding with the Eucharistic Prayer, so volunteers are present for the Consecration. The collection baskets could be added to the Offertory Procession as there is rich symbolism in this, and it is also good optics.

Action Item: A note could be included in the bulletin about the significance of the Offertory Procession, and the reason for including collection baskets.

Action Item: The information regarding collection baskets as part of the Offertory Procession will be forwarded to the Coordinator of the Hospitality Ministry.

3. Financial Update

A financial update was provided to PC. (Note that highlights are provided in these minutes; a detailed presentation will be given by the Finance Committee to SMCC.)

A dedicated bookkeeper for SMCC (“Bookkeeper”) is now on staff so there is more timely financial reporting. The Diocese of Calgary (“Diocese”) has given guidelines for the financial reporting that appears in the bulletin.

The 2025 budget must be submitted to the Diocese by November 25; the Bookkeeper will be assisting with preparation of the budget. The Diocese provides guidelines for the budget. For 2025, the budget will aim for a break-even scenario.

At SMCC, revenues have increased modestly from 2023, but costs have also been rising due to inflationary pressures. Most revenues come from collections.

To date, SMCC has reached 30% of its TIA goal and will have to pay any shortfall to the Diocese. The TIA goal is set at a percentage of annual collections.

29 of 67 parishes within the Diocese are in a deficit position compared to 19 in 2023. This may be because of an overall decline in Mass attendance compared to pre-Covid numbers; however, attendance in the Diocese has been increasing and is now at 40% of pre-Covid numbers.

4. Parish Renewal Team Update

All is progressing well with the Parish Renewal Team.

The parish renewal gathering on September 29 was well-received. Approximately 130 people attended the gathering in the Sanctuary following a delicious lunch hosted by the K of C and the CWL. Participants at the gathering enjoyed music by the Love One Another community, followed by Lectio Divina and small group conversations focusing on the 3 pillars of parish renewal: (Form Missionary Disciples in Christ, Becoming A Church of Encounter and Witness, Strengthening Family Life).

Please see the excellent article written by team member Scott Dixon in the October 21 edition of *Faithfully* for full coverage of the event. (<https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/blog/st-michaels-renewal-united-in-mission>)

Results from the parish surveys were released to parish renewal teams on October 22. We attended a Diocesan-wide webinar where we were guided in the process of Conversation in the Spirit (aka Canadian style Lectio Divina) to help us discern as a team what insights and highlights from the survey results will be shared with SMCC. We will be working through this process of discernment as quickly and expediently as possible. In addition to the survey results, we are in the process of evaluating responses from the postcard campaign in September and the parish renewal gathering to identify common themes to assist us in understanding survey results. In the New Year, we will begin the process of formulating a Parish Renewal Plan for SMCC.

5. Adoration Ministry Update

The process has started to build a team of volunteers whose task it will be to consult with our priests and determine what an Adoration Ministry at SMCC could be like. So far, 8 women have volunteered, but it is hoped that some men will also volunteer.

A 33-day video study by Fr. Jonathan Meyer (Give Your All – 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory) was suggested to inspire and educate parishioners about the beauty and significance of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The hope is to show the video prior to all weekend Masses for 33 weeks, starting in January 2025, and culminating with Consecration of SMCC to Jesus in the Eucharist on or around September 29, the feast of St. Michael.

There is a book to accompany the video series which will be made available to parishioners at a cost of \$5/person.

Action Item: 500 copies of the book mentioned above will be ordered and there will be consultation with our priests to coordinate showing the video prior to Masses.

6. Host a Movie Event Update

Nothing to report so far. Volunteers are still needed for this.

7. Healing Prayer Ministry Update

A representative from Shalom World Prayer (“SWP”) will be contacted and a request for a healing service at SMCC during Lent will be made. SWP has 3 missionary priests who do services and conferences internationally. If SMCC is chosen to host a healing service, we would have to pay for airfare and lodging. Healing services are provided free-of-charge.

8. High School and Young Adult Programs Update

“Immerse” Youth Nights with Face-to-Face Ministries for grades 6 – 8 were held on September 18 and October 16.

The Francis Xavier Chaplaincy (“FXC”), aimed at faith formation and fellowship for young adults in the Diocese of Calgary, is very active.

Action Item: The possibility of hosting an FXC gathering at SMCC will be explored.

9. Parish Events and Fundraising Possibilities

The first potluck social is scheduled for November 3, with a second in December. These gatherings are excellent for making people feel welcome and an important part of SMCC.

Potential fundraisers in the future include a Shrove Tuesday (March 4, 2025) party and auction, “Art of the Icon” pop-up shops in November and December (10 % of proceeds donated to SMCC), and a meat & seafood fundraiser through North Sea Fish & Farms (20% of proceeds donated to SMCC).

Action Item: Further information will be provided regarding the Art of the Icon.

Action Item: A meat & seafood fundraiser will be held at SMCC.

New Items

M. Nasse appointed as Chairperson of PC during B. Choquette’s absence.

Closing Prayer

All

Next Meeting

November 26, 2024

Adjournment

8:40 pm