

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 28, 2024 @ 7:00 PM**

Present (*In person*): Fr. Vargas, B. Choquette (Chair), M. Tapuska (Secretary), A. Bitter, T. Klassen, N. McIntosh, B. Popp, P. Tan, M. McGee (Chairman, SMCC Finance Council “FC”)
Absent: Fr. Bustalino, G. Brand, S. Gacla, L. Iovinelli, T. Novacosky, K. Renger, A. Valdez, P. Van de Mosselaer

AGENDA

Opening Prayer - Fr. Edmund

Approval of minutes from April meeting of PC

Moved that the minutes from the April 16, 2024, meeting of PC be approved. The motion was approved.

1. Communication Coordinator (Update)

There has been no movement from the Diocese regarding our application to hire a Communication Coordinator. Fr. Vargas will follow up.

2. Diocesan Renewal (Update)

The Parish Renewal Team (“PRT”) has met twice since Easter. There is good team synergy. The PRT is focusing on the Diocesan-wide Pastoral Renewal Survey that will take place the weekend of June 1 & 2 and has come together very quickly to spread the word.

The PRT will be participating in a Diocesan Team Building Initiative on June 22. (This is also available to PPC, but PRT decided to go ahead with just the PRT as all members are new and will be working collaboratively over the next couple of years.)

The Parish Renewal Gathering has been postponed to September 28 to coincide with the feast day of St. Michael and to give more time to advertise it to SMCC.

Members of the PRT and FC were invited to the PC’s wind-up BBQ in June.

Action: Invitations will be sent to members of the PRT and FC.

3. Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit (“EME”) (Update)

The EME is currently being held at SMCC, on the mezzanine level. It began on Friday, May 24, 2024, and will continue until Sunday, June 2, 2024. In addition to the EME, there are a couple of special events yet to come:

- Saturday, June 1, 2024 - 9:00am - Mass in the Day Chapel
- Sunday, June 2, 2024 - Noon - Eucharistic Procession around St. Michael's property

The EME has been well received with 943 visitors viewing the Exhibit in the first 4 days. This includes 132 Jr. High School students (Grade 8 students from Fr. Scollen and St. Augustine) who came to visit the Exhibit on Monday, May 27, 2024. We will also have 4 High Schools coming to visit the Exhibit as follows:

*Wednesday, May 29, 2024 - St. Mary & St. Martin
Thursday, May 30, 2024 - Notre Dame & St. Francis*

While the primary focus of the EME is to bring a greater awareness to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, we have also been collecting donations and selling books. Details of this to be provided in due course.

Fr. Vargas, on behalf of PC, extends his thanks and appreciation to the members of the EME Planning Committee for the exceptional work they have done to bring the EME to SMCC, and for the increase in volunteerism it has fostered.

4. Offertory Basket (Update)

Concern was expressed that it was published in the bulletin that basket collection would resume at Masses, and this has not been carried through. It was noted that basket collection has been taking place, but in a different manner than the baskets being passed among the pews as there are not enough volunteers at every Mass. The compromise of having two hospitality ministers stationed at the entrance to the Sanctuary with baskets is being used.

Basket collection revenues for May was provided, and they are variable from week to week.

After discussion, it was agreed that PC recommend that when needed, the Hospitality Ministry requests volunteers “on the spot” prior to Mass to assist with passing the baskets.

Action: The Coordinator of the Hospitality Ministry will be contacted regarding the above recommendation.

5. Promoting Planned Giving at SMCC (Update)

A proposal for a website page dedicated to Planned Giving that will ask, inspire, and engage parishioners is being planned. The website will include a link to FAQ (“frequently asked questions”) which will include basic information from the Diocese of Calgary (“Diocese”). Contact information for SMCC and the Diocese will also be provided. It was noted that advice from a professional financial adviser should be obtained to fully develop a Planned Giving page for the website, and that Timothy Troy, the CFO of the Diocese should also be consulted.

M. McGee reported that SMCC now has a temporary bookkeeper and that a financial report will be published in the bulletin the weekend of June 1 & 2.

Thanks were extended to Fr. Vargas for having published a note in the bulletin explaining why financial reporting has not been current since the start of the year.

Action: Information gathering and consultation will take place before a proposal for a website page is presented to Fr. Vargas.

6. Book of Intentions

It was suggested that a Book of Intentions replace the current Prayer Intention Basket. The book could be kept on the table outside of St. Mary's Chapel and any parishioner who has a specific prayer request could write it in the book. All prayer intentions would be anonymous and would be remembered in the Prayers of the Faithful at every Mass. PC agreed with this suggestion.

Action: A Book of Intentions will be made for use at SMCC as described above.

NEW ITEMS

7. Weekday Mass on Friday in St. Mary's Chapel

It was noted that Friday masses could be held in St. Mary's Chapel. The number of people who regularly attend can be accommodated in the chapel. Also, there is significant cost to light the Sanctuary. Covid is no longer a concern, and there is greater acceptance of using smaller spaces. All agreed that the renovated chapel is a beautiful space and should be used as often as possible.

Moved that Friday weekday Masses be celebrated in St. Mary's Chapel instead of in the Sanctuary. The motion was approved.

8. Fundraising Advertising in the Bulletin

Is it possible to sell advertising space in the bulletin to raise revenue? It's a difficult question as it would involve choosing "acceptable" vendors and surrendering bulletin space. A good alternative is renting space in the church building. When space is used in the building by outside groups, there is a suggested donation amount.

9. Using Incense at Mass

A complaint was made to the Bishop about the use of incense at the 11:00 am Sunday Masses. PC noted that the use of incense is well-advertised, and that there are options available to anyone who doesn't like the use of incense such as going to a different Mass

or sitting near the back of the Sanctuary. In addition, the church building has an HVAC system that provides ventilation.

10. Praise & Worship

Several parishioners have requested re-introducing an evening of praise & worship once a month. Different styles and preferences for worshipping were discussed. PC recommends that the group who is interested in re-introducing praise & worship create a proposal for PC to review at the next meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT at 8:20 pm.

NEXT MEETING OF PC

June 25, 2024. End of year potluck BBQ for PC, PRT and FC members and spouses. Invitations will be sent.