

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 20, 2025 @ 7:00 PM**

Present: Fr. Vargas, M. Nasse (Chair) M. Tapuska (Secretary), A. Bitter, D. Helton, L. Iovinelli, N. McIntosh, K. Renger, P. Tan, P. Van de Mosselaer

Absent: Fr. Chukwurah, G. Brand, T. Klassen, M. McGee (Chair, SMCC Finance Council), A. Valdez

Opening Prayer

Call to Order and Welcome

Items from March meeting

1. Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2025, meeting of PC

Moved that the minutes of the March 18, 2025, meeting of PC be approved as presented.

Seconded. The motion was approved.

2. Financial Update submitted to Fr. Vargas. (Summary in italics provided by M. McGee)

As per the financial statements for the April month end and YTD results, it is noted that April income (revenues) was \$207k with a net profit of \$60k. April revenues were up significantly from \$105k in March and the previous monthly high of \$119k in January. YTD income at \$543k is ahead of budget at \$470k and ahead of 2024 YTD income at \$486k and with a 2025 YTD net profit of \$123k ahead of our budget at \$26k and well ahead of our equivalent 2024 YTD loss of \$27k. Key YTD expenses that remain higher than budget are as follows: YTD Salaries & Benefits, maintenance, Admin & Office, and Columbarium, with Rectory costs and Interest & Bank charges both \$1k below budget.

YTD Building Fund and Other Income at \$156k remains ahead of budget at \$82k, albeit Aprils' contributions were \$8k lower than in March. Working capital is at a healthy \$1.012M with total cash & equivalents at \$432k and \$402k in Central Fund Savings. We continue to pay down our Central Fund Loan with total liabilities of \$3.7M and total equity of \$19.7M.

A question was raised regarding the efficacy of basket collections. Item will be tabled until the meeting in September.

3. Shalom Lenten Retreat update – (Update provided by P. Tan)

The retreat was well attended; approximately 700 attendees each evening. Fr. Roy gave impressive weekend homilies which garnered interest resulting in high attendance.

There were long line ups for reconciliation – thank you to Fr. Kelvin for assisting with reconciliation.

There were not enough refreshments on the first night.

Very good feedback for the retreat was received. People enjoyed the music.

Most people lined up to wait for Fr. Roy at the Healing Service; however, the assistant priest was also busy. The Healing Service finished around 10 pm.

\$6878.85 was collected for the Shalom Ministry. The airline tickets for Fr. Roy and the musician were \$1237.

Fr. Roy was very impressed with the turn-out. He thanks the parish council for initiating the retreat; it involved a lot of planning with Fr. Roy's team as it was done over a long distance.

Reflections on how we can make improvements for the next time:

Ensure that organization for the Healing Service is announced to the attendees.

Ensure more advance planning with the musician so that the words to the music can be displayed on the power point to enable people to join the singing.

Thank you to parish council members, both priests, and especially Kris for assistance and support, Augusto for coordinating the catchers, leaders of the Hospitality and Proclaimer ministries for setting up the teams, and the parishioners who volunteered for the event.

4. Parish Renewal Team update

Since our last meeting in March, the Parish Renewal Team ("PRT") organized and led the Parish Renewal Planning Day on March 29. All ministries were represented by the ministry coordinator or a representative and there were approximately 54 people in attendance. The ministries were divided into 5 areas for organization and discussion: Word, Worship, Community, Service, and Leadership & Stewardship. It was a productive day of prayer, planning and dialogue.

The PRT is currently in the process of preparing the first draft of the Parish Renewal Plan ("Plan"). The Diocese has provided a format for the Plan, which the PRT is following. Results from the Parish Renewal Survey taken last June, discussion points from the planning day on March 29 and parishioner feedback given at the Parish Renewal Gathering on September 29, 2024, and at the Parish Renewal Advent Retreat (December 3-5, 2024) are all being considered for the Plan.

The first draft of the plan will be ready on or before May 31 and will be circulated to PC and all ministry coordinators for comments. The plan will also be available for any parishioner who wishes to provide comments.

The second and final draft is due at the Diocese by June 15. The Parish Renewal Plan official kick-off celebration is planned for October 4/5. Kindly remember the PRT in your prayers for the preparation of a successful Plan.

5. Eucharistic Adoration Ministry Update - (Notes in italics provided by A. Bitter, J. McLaughlin (Coordinator, Eucharistic Adoration Ministry), and P. Van de Mosselaer)

The Parish Consecration to Jesus in the Eucharist book is progressing well; this week we are on Day 14 - The Power of Yes. The plan took a break over the 2 weeks of Holy Week and Easter Sunday and started back up on April 27th. Fr. Kelvin, at 5 pm Mass on Sundays, has tied on his homilies the Consecration theme with the teachings on Eucharist, readings of the book, the video and the season.

For Friday adoration, there have been consistent adorers each hour, however many people are dropping in and not signing up. We have an online sign up and supplemented with the paper sign up sheets on the table between the office and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Between the two signups we have had always someone preset at the chapel adoring our Lord. Some hours have had an attendance of up to 10 people.

For Friday June 6th, St Michael will have a 40 hrs Adoration time for vocations. Fr Edmund indicated that Adoration will start at 9:30 (after 9 am mass) in the daily chapel and at 10:30 am, it will continue there up to 3 pm and will continue there for the next 40 hrs (no transference of the Monstrance to the Blessed Sacrament chapel).

We are continually monitoring sign ups and will work with Father to adjust adoration hours if adorers are not signed up for a larger chunk of time.

Every Friday at 8 pm, when Adorations ends, a lay person will take The Blessed Sacrament to repose. Fr Kelvin is doing it for May and June and will be instructing several ministry members on how to repose Jesus if needed.

We also corresponded with Fr. Edmund re ideas brought up at the last EAM Meeting. The proposals are below; even though we contacted Fr Edmund, and he provided some comments, we are planning to meet him personally to discuss further and get an agreement on actions and path forward.

1. During the Parish Renewal session, other ministries indicated a desire to learn more about Adoration. We wondered if sending out a digital survey to get feedback from other ministries on how the EAM could best support them that might be helpful (ex. in-person lessons for altar servers, visiting other ministry meetings, providing an infographic to be shared, 5 minute information sessions after Mass, etc.). Fr. Edmund is planning some educational sessions about the Eucharistic Adoration.

2. Social media – what would be the best way to promote Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays with a target audience of young adults? We are not experienced with this and would need help with creating engaging posts. Father Edmund recommended to arrange with Catholic Spotlight by Mario Toneguzzi a video interview with one person from Adoration Ministry. He asked to send him the email of the designated person to be interviewed.

3. Potential reach out to Fr. Troy with St. Francis Xavier to promote adoration as well. We have heard that there are members of our parish that attend this and thought it would be a good way

to connect with them. Father Edmund thinks we should keep Adoration campaign within parish jurisdiction until the Consecration has been completed.

4. Family engagement - We understand that there has been some family adoration in the parish that was very well attended and that is very exciting. We would like to know the go forward plan for this regarding frequency and how can the Adoration ministry support that if that applies. Fr Edmund indicated that for now, family adoration will happen side by side with our Adoration time (individual devotion) due to the way family adoration meeting is organized.

The next EAM meeting is scheduled for June 4th at 12:30 - all are welcome to attend! Otherwise, we encourage all to take part in Friday Eucharistic Adoration from 9:30 - 8 pm.

Weekly videos about Consecration to Jesus in the Eucharistic will conclude on September 27/28. Fr. Vargas will present a program on Adoration after the 6 pm Mass on Wednesday evenings, September 17, 24 and October 1.

New Items

1. Set Meeting Dates for 2025/2026

The tentative meeting dates for PC for 2025/26 are the 4th Tuesday of the month, except December, July and August. However, as there may be conflicts with other ministries, the meeting date may be moved to the third Tuesday of the month to accommodate as many ministries as possible. To be confirmed and finalized.

Thank you to all PC members whose term is finished this June.

2. Tuesday Rosary

The current change to the recitation of the Rosary to 5:30 pm on Tuesdays is difficult for some parishioners. Fr. Edmund noted that the Rosary should be recited before Mass, and not afterwards as the Mass should be the summit of prayer. It was acknowledged that 5:30 is a difficult starting time.

3. Fire Safety

It was suggested that information is provided to parishioners about fire safety, such as the location of fire extinguishers, basic safety precautions, emergency actions and phone numbers in case of a safety or fire incident in the church building. Fr. Vargas noted the location of a fire extinguisher and AED outside the Sanctuary, around the corner from the tap machine. There is also one in the kitchen. The Hospitality Ministers have had basic training on the use of AEDs.

A slide with general information about fire safety that people should be aware of when they are in the building that could be shown on the TV monitors on weekends will be sent to Fr. Vargas.

4. Thank you

Thanks to Fr. Vargas for his short interviews with Mario Toneguzzi, which are a wonderful form of evangelization. (Interviews are available on the website by clicking “Video Interviews”).

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm

Next Meeting – June 24, 2025, Leadership Ministries BBQ