

**ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (“SMCC”)  
PASTORAL COUNCIL (“PC”)  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MAY 23, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

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

Absent: Fr. A. Komalachan, S. Gaela, L. Iovinelli, T. Klassen, P. Tan, A. Valdez

**AGENDA**

**1. Opening Prayer**

Evangelization: PC is commissioned to make Jesus known to the world and to welcome new parishioners to SMCC.

**2. Divine Mercy Liturgy/Chapel acknowledgement**

A thank you card for Peggy & Thomas Tan was presented in recognition of the success of the renovation of St. Mary’s Chapel. The blessing of the chapel, the Divine Mercy Sunday liturgy and the reception following were positive, community building experiences and needed to serve the people of SMCC. More positive experiences such as this are needed to move forward.

The following quote from Blessed Father Marie Eugene of the Child Jesus was shared: “You are not in this world to see evil, nor for you to be aware of its enormity, not even properly speaking, to fight against it or to vanquish it. You are in this world to render witness to God, to the life of God, to render witness to His existence and to His strength, and become thusly, God’s joy, a light for those who want to remain faithful.”

**3. Pastoral Care Update**

There are only 4 new volunteers thus far. It is hoped that the new volunteers will be able to attend Prominence Way and Wentworth retirement communities once they have completed training. The other retirement homes, Amica and Cedars Villa, are visited weekly.

The liturgy for use at retirement homes is being formalized. It was noted that a booklet of prayers to be used in situations when a person is dying is a useful item.

There was a brief discussion regarding the growing need for Palliative Care, especially in view of the concerns around M.A.I.D. (medical assistance in dying).

A meeting is planned to formalize the procedures around Home Visits; including how volunteers receive Communion after Mass and when family and Home Visitor involvement is appropriate.

The Chair noted that he has taken on the task of organizing social events for seniors 50+ including those in retirement homes. Ideally, these will be held 4 times a year. He is organizing a luncheon on June 30 following Mass and Holy Hour. More details to follow.

#### **4. Memorial Mass Update**

It is proposed that the Memorial Mass for those parishioners who passed away during Covid be held in the late fall, most likely on November 2, All Souls' Day, with a reception to follow. More details will be provided in the fall.

#### **5. Report following Fr. Edmund's Anniversary**

Fr. Edmund's anniversary Mass and reception following were beautiful, community-building events. More events like this are needed.

#### **6. Thursday Morning Coffee**

Thursday morning coffee is starting on June 8, after the 9 am weekday Mass. More volunteers are needed to assist.

### **NEW ITEMS**

#### **1. Library Computer Program**

This item was addressed prior to the meeting.

#### **2. Basket of Prayer**

Prior to Covid, a basket of anonymous prayer intentions was presented at the Offertory at Friday weekday Mass. Mass attendees were given the opportunity to write an intention on a small piece of paper prior to Mass and to put the intention in the basket. After discussion, it was agreed that the prayer basket should be re-introduced at Friday morning Masses.

**Action:** An announcement will be prepared for the bulletin to make parishioners aware that the Prayer Basket will be re-introduced at weekday Mass on Fridays.

#### **3. Friday Mass in Sanctuary**

It was noted that some parishioners have expressed their discomfort with Friday Masses being celebrated in St. Mary's Chapel due to the confined space and that some have

stopped coming to Friday weekday Masses at SMCC as a result. It was further noted that PC addressed this issue in the fall, agreeing that Friday morning Masses be held in the Sanctuary year-round. (See PC Minutes of Meeting, November 22, 2022, New Action Items, C.)

There was robust discussion as to why Friday morning Masses should be held in the Day Chapel: the Covid emergency has ended and there are no longer government protocols about physical distancing, the chapel is newly renovated and is there to be used for weekday Masses, it accommodates up to 170 people and is less expensive to light and heat than the Sanctuary.

Fr. Edmund indicated that he would listen to all suggestions and will pray about where Friday morning Mass should be celebrated.

#### **4. Blood Donor Clinic**

It was noted that there used to be regular blood donor clinics held at SMCC. These were stopped after the Covid restrictions were in place. Could they be reinstated?

**Action:** Canadian Blood Services will be contacted to inquire about blood donor clinics being held at SMCC.

There was continued discussion about the use of SMCC and in particular, the parking lot. Fr. Edmund has noted that it is being used for non-parish events. Possible solutions were mentioned such as a security service or crime prevention through environmental design for which Calgary Police Service could provide suggestions.

#### **5. Reception Food Preparation**

The issue of homemade food being provided for receptions and other events at SMCC was discussed. At a recent funeral reception, homemade food was provided by the family. It was noted that formerly, the protocols in place were that commercially prepared food must be provided for events such as funeral receptions where members of the public at large are in attendance to reduce liability concerns. However, for parish-only events such as potluck dinners or receptions, homemade food may be acceptable, especially desserts. There was consensus that these protocols continue.

**Action:** Fr. Edmund will meet with the Coordinator of Funeral Receptions to review the protocols.

### **RE-VISIT PC's PURPOSE**

Fr. Edmund introduced *Parish Pastoral Council, A Guideline* (circulated via email to PC members earlier this week.) He noted that part of PC's purpose is to help with pastoral planning for the parish. This is done by asking ministries for their plans for the upcoming liturgical year, including dates of activities and proposed budgets. From this, a Program of Activities can be compiled for the parish.

A letter and brief questionnaire from PC have been sent from the office to all ministry leads asking for dates for planned activities and budget needs. The deadline for submission is May 31.

It was noted that the questionnaire did not ask for input regarding ministry meeting times and rooms. This information will be sought once all ministry dates have been ascertained.

**Action:** A follow up reminder will be sent to the ministries who have not replied by May 31.

**Action:** A master calendar will be prepared based on ministry responses to the questionnaire.

**CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT** at 8:35 pm