

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council
October 27, 2008

Father Ron called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 10 members present.

Following the opening reading, Fr. Ron noted that in the reading, Jesus told his disciples to go and preach to all the nations, and that is still the teaching today, that we need to listen to, and try to make a reality here at St. Michaels.

Review of Parish Council Guidelines and direction for the year

The Council reviewed the guidelines, which state that the objectives are:

- To assess the needs of the parish community
- To develop and implement a pastoral plan
- To foster unity and a sense of community
- To oversee all activities so that they best serve the interests of the parish

The Characteristics of a PPC are:

- *Prayerful.* The council devotes time for reflective prayer
- *Pastoral.* The purpose is to assist in the development of an overall mission plan to make Christ more present to the community.
- *Representative.* Members represent the whole parish community and exercises concern for all parishioners.
- *Discerning.* Through prayerful consensus, experience, skills, and gifts of each member merge to discern the direction and priorities of the parish.
- *Responsive.* The council must be sensitive and cognizant of justice and peace issues, both locally and nationally.
- *Enabling.* In the spirit of God's love, the members recognize and support others' gifts, and look for ways for parishioners may grow and flourish in that love.

The Relationship with Parish Ministries:

- The PPC must have a working relationship with parish ministries.
- The PPC needs to be aware of parish activities. It is not the authority of the PPC to direct parish activities.

Parish ministry reports are a standard part of the council agenda so that the work of the ministries may be evaluated within the mission statement of the parish.

Following the review, the council listened to the presentations from the Homebound Ministry given by Deacon Dan, and the Parish Nurse Ministry given by Mary Ellen Bartlett.

The Ministry to the Homebound began after Vatican 2 in 1962, but wasn't ratified by the Bishops until 1982. The Roman Rite includes comforting the sick and the distribution of the Eucharist in nursing homes, hospitals and homes by priests, deacons and the laity. The ministers become the presence of Christ and bring ties to the Church to patients. We have 80 people who do visits not including hospitals and nursing homes. 125 people receive visits and Communion either once or twice a month or some weekly. There is training for the ministers, about 3 hours for hospital visits, and also for home visits. A prayer book with instructions is given to each minister along with a Pyx for the holding of the hosts. The team meets twice a year and there are Health seminars available.

Discussion followed. Fr. Ron suggested that with such a deep commitment and the feelings of loss sometimes experienced by the ministers, that a Minister to the ministers would be a valuable addition to the program and offered to perform that service. He will set up an evening for anyone who would like to meet with him to discuss his or her feelings.

Jose Bairos noted the Portuguese Community is very involved with the ill and elderly of the Portuguese people. Mary Ellen noted the need for translators in some cases. Deacon noted that the ministers deliver Christmas and Easter flowers to people. Fr. Ron also noted that the school children create Christmas cards and Easter cards, which are delivered to the homebound. He also noted that there is a parishioner making small "mats" to be given out at Christmas.

The Parish Nurse Ministry is a restart of a former program not in current use. Mary Ellen Bartlett has worked in nursing for 40 years and has received training as a Parish Nurse. The training program is a 16-week intensive course. The nurse ministry started in the Mid West as a Protestant program, which has grown to include both the Catholic and Jewish community. She noted the "do's and don'ts" of the program and that she has been invited to speak to a couple of local groups with one being an opportunity for recruitment possibilities. Mary Ellen also will restart the Prayer Shawl Ministry in the parish and has some who already do this ministry. She noted the necessity for working to gain the trust of patients by being a parish representative and a "Piece of God". She has many ideas that she hopes to promote and help to serve the St. Michaels community. Michael asked about insurance coverage for people working in the ministry, and there isn't any, most have their own insurance. There are confidential agreements that are signed by those who need permanent drivers.

The next Parish Council meeting will be **Monday, December 1,2008 at 7:00pm**

Respectfully submitted
Pat Conte, Secretary