



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
Monday, October 7, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

St. Michael's Mission:

Guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Michael the Archangel Church brings the parish and the community closer to the Lord through worship, love and stewardship so that all may be one in Christ.

St. Michael's Vision:

A dynamic community of faith, celebrating our growing diversity as a beacon of the new evangelization.

PRESENT: Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, Rev. Santiago Martin, Lisa Taylor, Edwin Mendez, Esnath Mtonga, Ana Smith, John Webster, Jason Giovanettone, Renee Holder, Helder Hernandez.

I. Call to Order and Welcome **Lisa Taylor** 7:04 p.m.

We welcome new PC member: Renee Holder, representative from the Caribbean Community.

II. Opening Prayer/Reflection **Msgr. Tolentino**

A.) Monsignor reflected that the month of the Holy Rosary is October, and he gave a summary on the history of the Holy Rosary. As a meditation for this meeting, he requested Parish Council members to please choose a particular mystery of the rosary, and reflect on how that mystery has impacted them, and to reflect on a virtue that God calls each member to work on.

III. Approval of the September Minutes **Eliamelisa Gonzalez**

A.) Anna Smith – first / John Webster - Seconded

Eliamelisa is in Chicago.

IV. Approval of Agenda **Lisa Taylor**

A.) Jason – First / Anna - Seconded

V. Report from the Finance Council **John Webster**

John Webster reported the following:

- A.) He is the vice-chair of Finance Council, and Liaison of the Finance Council to the Parish Council, and is in an ex-officio member, to what Monsignor Tolentino mentioned that this could be changed in the future when PC bylaws are revised and make the vice-chair of the finance council, in this case, John Webster, a permanent official member.
- B.) John Webster said this is the first time this report is given at the PC. The Finance Council Members are: Monsignor Tolentino, John Webster, Michelle Webster, Patricia Nicholas, Genevieve Paul, Stephanie Ayala, and Father Santiago Martin.
- C.) Finance Council is working on getting our parish business records in order, and getting ready for audit. John Webster also mentioned that Joanie Heavey, ex-business manager at Saint Michael about 4 years ago, had many responsibilities in terms of finance. In her absence, there has been a gap. New accountants were brought. In 2016, accountant's job was unacceptable. There was a change for a new accountant, but it didn't work. Now we have brought a third accountant.
- D.) In September 2017, there was a parish debt forgiveness from the Archdiocese. Parish had about 1 million dollars in debt to the Archdiocese. Around September 2017 during the year of mercy, the Cardinal extended debt forgiveness to the parishes. About 7 hundred thousand and seventy were forgiven to Saint Michael the Archangel. The reason for this debt was that over the years, we were falling behind on bills to the Archdiocese, among others.
- E.) Yearly we pay about 18 per cent of our offertory to the Archdiocese. Good news is: We do not have any debt now, and we have assets from the bank, to support necessary expenditure.
- F.) Stable Patrimony: ADW keeps in a trust fund and is about 5 hundred thousand dollars. This came from selling land that belonged to us and also compensation for the purple line. This money belongs to the parish. Some projects have been done already with this money. After all this projects, the balance is: \$500,000.00
- G.) We received a bequest of \$524,988.00, and it is kept in ABS investment. Monsignor defines this bequest to be spend only for Religious Education projects.
- H.) Approximately \$1,078,267.00 million of cash is needed to fund the parish operations, excluding big renovations.
- I.) Our parish membership is down, and our parish offertory collection as well. Year by year it is showing a trend showing is going down. We need to reverse the trend.
- J.) John Webster continued explaining the annual parish financial report, line by line.
- K.) Lisa Taylor: This was brought to the PC meeting so that we see that there is a reason why we need to do a budget for each year and not go beyond it.
- L.) Monsignor Tolentino brought some matters to the attention of the Parish Council:

- a.) \$2,135.00 was collected on the weekend October 5 & 6, for Tabernacle Restoration. This makes the Tabernacle Restoration collection project to completion. \$1,000.00 were collected at Monsignor's anniversary. \$3,000.00 are needed to restore the tabernacle.
- b.) Rectory will stop giving cash to homeless when they come in looking for help at the rectory door. Instead, it will give certificates for transportation, and food. Jason G.'s comment: Jason, the homeless brother and parishioner said it's not a good idea to stop giving money. Anna Smith replied: There is a listing of social services when homeless people come to request.
- c.) We need a second team to count money from the weekly offertory collection. It is prudent that we can have another team. Msgr. asked PC members to let him know if they know of any one that is honest, and has a good reputation. For counting members, there is no criminal background check needed.
- d.) Place in agenda for parish council & FC: What is the best way to distribute money from the Poor Box.
- e.) Father Santiago has been working on pews and kneelers, and we got the three bids requested from the Archdiocese. Monsignor is asking a recommendation as to how we can pay for it. Maybe sell the pews to parishioners, rather than taking this money from our parish account.
- f.) Parish Center AC: We need to renovate it.
Father Santiago in charge.
- g.) Monsignor asks: How do we talk to parishioners about tiding? Take the next step... We need to look at our census, every 5 years, and look at other ways of having parishioners tide. He asks: It needs to begin with us. Does clergy tide? Does PC members and members of different ministries tide?
- h.) We have new votive candles for the Statue of Jesus, the Savior of the World. We need to move the statue a little to the back of where it is now, in order that the new votive candles can match with those that are next to the church's wall.

VI. Report from the Hispanic Committee

Helder Hernandez

- A.) First meeting of the year was held on Monday, September 16, 2019. Meeting was basically to go over what is expected of the 2019-2020 year, and to continue implementing the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.
- B.) At the Hispanic Committee Meeting, it was reminded that the process for employment the Spanish Music Coordinator is on and we gave a tentative date to have an employed person by December 2019. The music coordinator will direct the Hispanic Music Ministry, and it will also play the piano at all Spanish Masses, as well as unite all Music Ministers and members to make one Spanish liturgical choir for the parish to play at 6:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. weekend Masses in Spanish.

C.) We had a workshop in Spanish in reference to the care for God's creation on Saturday, October 5. People were very engaged. El Pregonero, archdiocesan newspaper was there and did a report on it.

D.) As always, the minutes from the Hispanic Committee Meeting are translated from Spanish to English so that PC members may read them and be informed of all the meeting details.

VII. Michaelmas Debrief

John Webster

A.) Lisa thanked everyone for been there. Special thanks to John Webster, and all the Michaelmas Committee. Feedback? Attendance was good. We should increase the number of programs. Maybe 450.

B.) Anna Smith: Starting Spring, it is suggested that we invite parishioners and anyone to join this committee, so that we can get members in advance. Monsignor said the Michaelmas Committee want to start the first of July.

C.) Lisa requests Monsignor Tolentino to send thank you note to members of the committee. Monsignor said he thanked them personally at the meeting.

D.) Lisa was impressed with the homily that Monsignor preached. Monsignor asks John Webster to publish Jason's letter to the website.

E.) Jason was happy to see water jar containers instead of plastic containers with water.

F.) Someone gave her a letter informing about Veteran Compost... Food Scrap Collection... Offer food scrap collection as both regularly scheduled service and for special events... CLEAN, RELIABLE, FRIENDLY..

VIII. 7 Principles Service Report

Lisa Taylor

a. Life and Dignity of the Human Person (Lisa Taylor)

- i. Montgomery County Police has been contacted and soon we will have the Active Shooting Workshop.
- ii. Right to life month will be in January. Soon we will begin to post this information.
- iii. Lisa will follow up with Tony Wohleber and Anna in reference to the Diaper Drive that will happen during the month of October.

b. Call to Family, Community and Participation (Edwin Mendez)

- i. Edwin has been working with the Care for God's Creation workshop in Spanish. Making sure community attends this workshop.

c. Rights and Responsibilities (Marisela Tobar)

- i. No report

d. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (Anna Smith)

- i. Partnering with Blair High School Wrestling Team's Day of Service (50-60 volunteers; lead by coaches)
- ii. Monsignor asks Lisa to send email with this letter to Parish Council. PC members will think of a way in which these students can volunteer at the parish.
- iii. Anna Smith thinks a good idea would be to use these volunteers to clean up around the Parish Center, especially with the Green Committee Project of cleaning up the PC outside storages.
- iv. Idea came up of using these volunteers for having a Sligo Creek Environmental Day and have them go clean the creek.

e. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (John Webster)

- i. No report

f. Solidarity (Cristina Sian)

- i. No report

g. Care for God's Creation (Jason Giovannettone)

- i. Jason is working on demo project.
- ii. We now need a bond. Bond will approximately be about \$3,000.00.
- iii. Lisa asks to Jason to resubmit proposal to the parish council, so that PC knows about it.
- iv. The Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Change requested to have a December meeting at Saint Michael. December 17 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- v. Green Committee meeting is coming up.. Darrell is working on it.
- vi. Committee is working on sending periodic emails and articles to Parish Times for Climate Change on issues related, as well as a bulletin corner on climate change.
- vii. Plastic issue: It is becoming a hot topic.

IX. Administrative Matters

Lisa Taylor

a. Announcement: Welcoming Cindy Mendez; Saying Goodbye to Edwin Mendez

- i. Thank you, Edwin, and Welcome, Cindy.

b. Parish Council Membership (Lisa, Cristina, Eliamelisa, and Father Santiago)

- i. Lisa asks Monsignor for Thank you letters to members whose terms finished.
- ii. We need to recruit more members.

c. Request to Schedule a Meeting Reasons to Attend Mass Campaign

- i. A meeting needs to be schedule to talk about Reason to Attend Mass Campaign.
- ii. Monsignor will send Lisa an email about LANDINGS, the program that helps Catholics come back to mass.

- iii. Monsignor will also send Lisa information about the Coming Home for Christmas Archdiocesan Campaign.

d. Request to Schedule a Meeting regarding Parish Ministry Fair (March 15, 2020)

- i. There will not be a Parish Ministry Fair. Instead, there will be a Communications Campaign (Email blast, parish pulpit announcement, flyers, and bulletin) to announce that we need volunteers for liturgical ministries and parish group ministries. John Webster will take this to Communications Committee Meeting so they can work on it. Due date for this: October 31, 2019.

e. Parish Council Retreat

- i. No date yet. Lisa will follow up on this, but tentative date will be in the spring 2020.

f. Gift to Monsignor for 35th Anniversary

- i. \$3,000.00 have been collected.

g. Sound System Enhancements – Effective Communication

- i. Everything is ready for installation. October 9, the vendor will come to do installation.
- ii. Translation Ministry and Bilingual Mass at 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. will be on agenda item for next meeting.

h. Utilization of Square credit/debit card

- i. Cindy will keep the square devise, and ministries will sign out from her. Square devise is working properly now.

i. Upcoming Events

Addiction Workshop on October 23

Prayer Breakfast for Married and Engaged Couples on November 16

NFP Classes (December 14, March 7, June 27)

X. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- a. November 4, 2019**
- b. December 2, 2019**
- c. January 6, 2020**
- d. February 3, 2020**
- e. March 2, 2020**
- f. April 6, 2020**
- g. May 4, 2020**
- h. June 1, 2020**

XI. Pending Business

Lisa Taylor/Parish Council

- i. October is Respect Life: The Gabriel Project of Montgomery County distributes 40,000 – 50,000 diapers for the babies of the women we serve every year. St. Michael's Parish will conduct a diaper and wipe drive for the Gabriel Project of Montgomery County

- ii. Plan for homeless parishioners - none

XII. New Business

Lisa Taylor

- A. Thank you to those who attended Spaghetti Dinner – It was a great success.
- B. Our Parish Annual Report is now online. Michelle Webster sent it to Monsignor. Special thanks to Michelle for this.
- C. Monsignor asks Lisa to send this report to all members and ask for comments.
- D. We will focus on seven principles at next meeting.
- E. From the Education Committee - Concern about the lack of cleaning at the Paris Center. Monsignor Tolentino says: Ana, Ramon, Benjamin will have to follow up on this.
- F. We need to make sure every Monday and Friday there is a full clean-up of the Parish Center and church, and rectory. This belongs to rectory maintenance staff.
- G. Monsignor thanks Lisa for been present at the meeting. Lisa has been going through a lot lately, many difficulties. Thank you, Lisa, for continuing to be present at PC meetings.

XIII. Closing Prayer

Father Santiago

Next Meeting: November 4, 2019

REMINDER –Parish Council members assigned to serve as liaison officers to Councils, Committees and Ministries are responsible for serving as ministry coordinators and for keeping the Parish Council informed of ministry activities and new information or challenges of which the Council should be aware through monthly reports submitted no later than one week in advance of a Council meeting.