



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church  
Parish Council Meeting  
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD  
Monday, September 9, 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, Deacon Curtis Rodney, Lisa Taylor, Edwin Mendez, Helder Hernandez, Jason Gioavanettone, Eliamelisa Gonzalez, Maricela Tobar, Christina Sian, Anna Smith, John Webster.

- I. Call to Order and Welcome** **Lisa Taylor** 7:09pm
- II. Opening Prayer/Reflection** **Msgr. Tolentino**
- III. Approval of the June Minutes** **Lisa Taylor**
- First: John Webster  
Seconded: Maricela Tobar
- IV. Approval of Agenda** **Lisa Taylor**
- It was requested that we move agenda item VIII to VII so there can more discussion on VIII.  
First: John Webster  
Seconded: Eliamelisa Gozalez
- V. Parish Council Membership** **Msgr. Tolentino**
- A. There are four vacancies. Monsignor asks who volunteers to find people to fill these vacancies. Lisa, Cristina, Eliamelisa, and Father Santiago volunteer. Lisa will send specifications.
- B. We need a new vice-chair, and we need to find a representative from the Caribbean Community. Deacon Curtis keeps trying to find a representative.
- C. We need to send a thank you letter to the PC members who are leaving the parish council. Lisa will send an email with the drafted letter.

## **VI. Report from the Hispanic Committee**

**Helder Hernandez**

### **A. Hispanic Heritage Celebration**

- a. Helder commented on the success of Hispanic Heritage Celebration that was held on Sunday, September 8, 2019 at the 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship in the Williamsburg Room. It was a successful event. However, it needed more participation on behalf of the parish council members and other leaders. Lisa gives a suggestion to Helder to send an email invitation to each leader to remind them of the celebration requesting their presence. Maybe this will help.
  - b. Monsignor requests that next year to have the Hispanic Committee plan the event in advance and give some assignments to PC members as well.
  - c. John Webster mentioned that the celebration was only for 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. but not 11:00 a.m., to what Helder replied that the event was planned for 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. masses only, and that this was decided and approved by all members at the previous Parish Council Meeting, but that it would be a good idea to plan for all morning masses for next year but more help will be needed from all PC members.
- B. The Immigration Forum was a great success as well. This was held on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Over 30 people attended the Spanish workshop, and about 15 people attended the English workshop. Monsignor asks: Are there people who help our immigrant brothers and sisters that are facing challenges due to the latest immigration policy changes? We need to find a way to stay on top of immigration. This is part of social justice. We need to try to get people resources where to go. Assess what resources we have. We need to be able to direct people where to go. Cristina will also find information on Immigration from the Asian community.
- C. Hispanic Charismatic Group went out to evangelize on the streets. John Webster asks how did it go. Edwin replied saying it was a wonderful experience and many people felt very happy that they were approached by the Catholic Church. Very few people are approached by the Catholic Church. They are more approached by the Evangelical church.

## **VII. Administrative Matters**

**Lisa Taylor**

### **A. Reasons to Attend Mass Campaign**

John Webster: Idea is to have a monthly reminder for the parish to attend mass and to share that like what the charismatics are doing, people who have dropped off.

Msgr asks: what does he suggest to move the idea and to make it work? Webster said: Pass this to the evangelization committee.

Cristina gives an idea: Send a letter.

Jason G.: He remembers about a list about possible reasons why to go to mass.. A draft was turned over to the committee, and the committee will work on it.

Msgr: He went to Oxford House for an invocation. They helped in recover for drug addiction. There are over 400 hundreds in the United States. If you open their booklet. It is filled with testimonies who live in Oxford House. People need to hear people's stories. Why I need the Lord? He would ask that approach. Once a month we can publish someone's written testimony about coming to mass, and giving.... Write testimonies. Oxford are from all over religions.

Lisa requests to have the evangelization committee meet.

**B. Parish Ministry Fair**

- a. March 15th, 2020... Eliamelisa, Edwin, Lisa and Edwin will work on it... Communications Committee will also work on it. Msgr. says we need to recruit servers for liturgy... Curtis gives the idea for a weekly campaign...Or workshop..
- b. We will plan a Liturgical Ministry's campaign: Sunday, October 20, 2019. Monsignor will lead this...We will have tables outside...

**C. Michaelmas**

- a. John Webster: We need a photographer, volunteers, more people to bring food.

**D. Parish Council Retreat**

- a. We will change it... We are devising a plan to come for 3 consecutive Saturdays... 9am to 12pm... Spiritual Retreat. Members still agree on the idea of going away on a retreat but only Friday and Saturday. Lisa will call and see what dates are available. Tentative places: Seton or Priestfield, Winchester, St. Anthony Shrine. Lisa will send a doodle.

**E. Gift to Monsignor for 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

- a. We will have a second collection on October 5 & 6, 2019.
- b. There was a volunteer who gave \$1,000.00 for donations...We need \$2,000.00 more.

**F. Plan for homeless parishioners**

- i. Lisa received an email: How are we serving the homeless.. We should be doing more...Should we rent our 810 house? or have an emergency call to help people...Catholic Charities transfer people to Catholic Charities... Catholic Charities transfer people to CRISIS CENTER...Deacon Curtis gave idea of having a parishioner who has a home to give a room to the needy parishioners and publicize it...If parishioners know that they have this space and they want to make it available to parishioners, and they can say: I need a room to rent. Lisa will give this request to the Service Committee.
- ii. Msgr would like to begin by helping homeless who come to ask for help at the rectory door. We will not give money, but grocery cards. Another idea: Refer people in need of housing to Catholic Charities..
- iii. Money from the poor box: We need to send to Catholic Charities.. Whatever we are not purchasing on groceries cards..
- iv. John Websters adds: Also, we need to distribute to the other organizations.
- v. Monsignor: We should ADOPT: Jason, our homeless brother and parishioner. He did respond for a job application and he was not helped because he's homeless. Brainstorming: Having a dental fair for him.. Bethesda Cares: Msgr. read a letter he received from them, and

he will give this letter to Jason. This organization helps homeless people to find a place to live and give them resources.

#### **G. Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

- a. **October 7, 2019**
- b. **November 4, 2019**
- c. **December 2, 2019**
- d. **January 6, 2020**
- e. **February 3, 2020**
- f. **March 2, 2020**
- g. **April 6, 2020**
- h. **May 4, 2020**
- i. **June 1, 2020**

#### **VIII. 7 Principles Service Report**

**Lisa Taylor**

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

- 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. Sodality will lead it.

NOTE: On the rest of the principles, Lisa requests everyone to think about them with projects for the new year. She didn't ask for a report. Jason gave his on Care for God's creation.

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

##### **c. Rights and Responsibilities (Marisela Tobar)**

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

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

##### **f. Solidarity (Cristina Sian)**

##### **g. Care for God's Creation (Jason Giovannettone/Darrell Smith)**

- a. Making Michaelmas Green is a positive success for Care for God's creation... The workshop series was a great success. Jason reached people outside of the parish. Attracted folks from other parishes. Monsignor is happy that it happened... It is ONGOING. Jason asks if there can be a Climate corner on the bulletin: Anything that would help people...
- b. Jason will also try to get Fr. Jason on getting him to give some homilies... About 130 people attended the workshop...
- c. Some things Jason would like to mention:
  - 1.) Focusing on getting trailer removing... He's gone through it. They got all the blue chairs and desks out of there. There are still a lot of things. Most of the stuffs are not trashable... He continues to empty stuffs out...They have applied for a grant..Submitted a proposal.. We won't hear until November.
  - 2.) Demolition permit - He needs to get an eroded inspection.. For this permits, how does he get this funded? How does he move this forward? Msgr. just asks to speak to John Webster or Edwin Mendez... Rainwater is about \$8,500.00 Msgr: Green project is good. but is it necessary or is it essential? Talking to people for sacrificial giving... We need to get all this together... What we do depends on all this things. PC and HC's responsibilities. How do we get this across? How are we going to communicate to all? How do I get the rest of the parish interested in this? Lisa says: So, her feedback we are

shooting in the dark because we don't have the funds... In order to have this information to us... Do a quick review..Do a request to spend.

**IX. Pending Business**

**Lisa Taylor/Parish Council**

- a. Lisa says there needs to be an election for a Chair and a Vice-chair at this meeting. Everyone agreed to have Lisa continue for one more year as chair to the Parish Council.
- b. Eliamelisa Gonzalez was elected as vice-chair to the Parish Council.

**X. New Business**

**Lisa Taylor**

- a. Deacon Curtis is going on a pilgrimage to Italy and asks if the group going to Italy can leave their cars parked at the Parish Center while they are on pilgrimage. Monsignor said for safety reasons, this is not possible.

**XI. Closing Prayer**

**Father Santiago**

**Next Meeting: October 7, 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.