



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church  
Parish Council Meeting  
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD  
Monday, March 4, 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:** Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, Father Luis Marroquin, Deacon Curtis Rodney, Lisa Taylor, Darrell Smith, Edwin Mendez, Jason G., John Webster, Helder Hernandez, Esnath Mtonga, Lilian Corvera, Cristina Sian, Eliamelisa Gonzalez, Maricela Tobar, Anna Smith.

**GUEST:** Sandra Bonne-Anne

**I. Call to Order and Welcome 7:03 p.m. Lisa Taylor**

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

A. Monsignor reflected on a reading from St. Casimir's Feast day, and asked the question: What's the effect of God's love working in you? This question was asked while commenting on a reading from the office of readings on his feast day which says "By the power of the Holy Spirit, Casimir burned with a sincere and unpretentious love for almighty God that was almost unbelievable in its strength." Each gave their own thoughts.

**B. Approval of Agenda Lisa Taylor**

A. Lilian requests to remove Report from Hispanic Committee from the agenda as there was no meeting held in January. She has no report.

B. Motion: Jason G.

Seconded: Eliamelisa G.

**III. New Website Briefing Sandra Bonne-Annee**

A. Sandra thanked Lisa and council for allowing her to give this presentation. Presentation was given to council on what are the goals of the communications committee, what has been accomplished and what plans are there for the future.

B. Members of the Communications Committee are: Sandra B. , Nicole C., Cecilia F., Eliamelisa G., Araceli and Damien Kawakami, Mary Ann Robertson, John Webster.

C. Committee's Goal:

1. Enhance communications from St. Michael's leadership to the parish in order to increase community engagement.
2. Provide communications pathways that empower Parishioners to get involved and provide feedback.
3. Establish a visible presence in Silver Spring

D. What's done:

1. Toolkit... Sandra hopes to make the toolkit available to all vitalities through email, so that this can be used as the main tool to make all announcements in the parish via all the communications channels.

Lisa asks what about those that do not have access to email and does not speak English. Sandra replies: She can make hard copies available at the Front Desk of the parish and Edwin or Eliamelisa can translate to Spanish.

E. Communications Plan for parish events - Michaelmas

F. Parish Times (content and editing submissions)

G. Consulted on Audio bid

H. Ongoing efforts to recruit new volunteers

I. Website Redesign - Jessica Dawson of TD & P Consulting

J. What's next:

1. Inform all vitalities of the Toolkit
2. Redesign the parish bulletin
3. Streamline Mass announcements
4. Establish a social media strategy
5. Determine ways to support parish evangelization efforts
6. Increase and enhance parishioner involvement.

Jason asks to have the website secured.

Goals for redesign:

1. Simple and easy to use
2. Provides users with fundamental parish information
3. Faciliate communication and giving
4. Functional calendar for parish events
5. Increase parish profile
6. English and Spanish

Monsignor says: Find a way that we forward parish briefings to Sandra...

Msgr asks for website to be updated.

Lisa asks if staff emails can have a domain name.

Jason asks: Jessica will help to set it up but will not maintain it. We need to have someone else do it.

Darrell: Will it be accessible? He suggests that is accessible. Idea from Darrell: Can there be a feature in the parish calendar where you can click a specific event and it will automatically be added to your smart phone calendar?

Lisa: We should thank Jessica Dawson - Lisa Taylor will draft a letter.

#### **IV. 7 Principles Service Report**

**Lisa Taylor**

- A. Life and Dignity of the Human Person (Lisa Taylor)
  - a. Have a team assist every year to Catholics in Annapolis, the catholic advocacy legal network.
  - b. Working with Montgomery County police to make the church secure.
  - c. TPS Temporary status permit...Now, it is been extended until January 2020. Lisa talked about finding a way on how to support people, and how everyone affected by this permit can find out about the extension.
- B. Call to Family, Community and Participation (Edwin Mendez)
  - a. No report. Edwin couldn't meet with members assigned. He will meet with them and will present it next parish council meeting.
- C. Rights and Responsibilities (Maricela)
  - a. DACA - People have not renewed DACA...
  - b. Explain terminology about DACA...
  - c. The role that the church plays... Tries to find out what the USCCB is doing...
  - d. Idea about helping parishioners that would like to become citizens. Have confirmation youth help people study for the citizenship test.  
Msgr.: asks Maricela not do all this by herself.  
Esnath: People tend to isolate themselves...Have parishioners know that there are people that can help them understand.
- D. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (Anna Smith)
  - a. Lenten Food Drive - Sharon is running it.
  - b. She would like to focus on Immigration services.
  - c. Resource guide is available at the front desk. It was suggested that this is translated into Spanish.
  - d. Trying to bring up the English program.
  - e. Adopting a parish in a different country.
  - f. Post human rights  
Msgr. asks Anna to get in contact with Sister Kathleen.
- E. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (John Webster)
  - a. Deacon Curtis is helping John Webster on this. Plan is to have a listening session.
  - b. Deacon Curtis is support step.
- F. Solidarity (Cristina Sian)
  - a. She hasn't thought much but she's thinking to have classes where they can learn Spanish.
  - b. Pilgrimages to the holy sites.  
Deacon asks: How can the parish be affected with fundraisers.  
Also, Christina mention that there are some restaurants that have a fundraiser.

- G. Care for God's Creation (Jason Giovannettone/Darrell Smith)
- a. Darrell and Jason have met. March 20 they will again meet to continue working on this.
  - b. Youth Group is interested in participated in the park... They can get Student Service Learning Hours through this. Deacon Curtis asks Darrell to invite the boy scouts...
  - c. Jason passed around a sheet idea to make the parish make it green. He presented a diagram and other sheet to explain this project. Diagram explained the project, and the other sheet explained the cost estimate for the Green Infrastructure Installation on the school and church grounds, and also take care of the parish center parking lot. Jason talked about replacing concrete and asphalt with a paver stone. A friend of him is putting a proposal for him and the committee. Proposal is \$10,000.00. Jason asks about Msgr.'s approval.. Msgr. gives a green light.
  - d. Sandra B. asks to have a community garden. Msgr. says Knights of Columbus have been asking about joining with Baptist church to make this project work.

**V. Administrative Matters**

**Lisa Taylor**

- A. Parish Council Activity 2018-2019 Meeting Dates:
1. Monday, April 1, 2019
  2. Monday, May 6, 2019
  3. Monday, June 3, 2019
- B. Celebrating Monsignor's 35th anniversary in the priesthood
- a. We need people to help...Eliamelisa can help. Lisa will get back with Edwin about getting a date.
- C. The National Congregations Study (Duke and NORC at University of Chicago)
- a. This Study will use our parish community to work on studying how people practice their faith in the different denominations.
- D. Engaging the Mission workshop – Archdiocese of Washington DC Secretariat for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns –March 16, 2019/8:30 to 3:00 pm
- i. Lisa talks about having someone assist to it.
  - ii. Parishioner Tony Wohleber is attending.
  - iii. Lisa will send a registration email to see who can go.
- E. Crime Prevention Inspection and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training
- a. Montgomery County police provides training to people...  
Lisa asks about what do members think about it? Lisa will be waiting for a response.
  - b. What to do in been secured at the rectory.  
Eliamelisa - In Bowie there are classes of self defense.. She's wondering if Montgomery County has this program? Lisa asks if possible to have this open.

**VI. Pending Business**

**Lisa Taylor/Parish Council**

**VII. New Business**

**Lisa Taylor**

**A. Evangelization Team**

**John Webster**

- a. John Websters: Assess the Parish's current position, determine strategies, and implement actions in the following areas: Hospitality, Fellowship, Outreach to inactive registered parishioners, and outreach to apartment and cone residents

within a specified radius of the parish, outreach to single family homes within a specified radius of the parish.

- i. Lisa asks: Is the evangelization committee the same?? Deacon Curtis replies by saying that the committee has a general overview but the team has a specific role.
  - ii. Who will be on the team: Have volunteers from the parish.
  - iii. Eliamelisa asks: What's the message... John Webster: The team will establish this...
  - iv. Deacon Curtis would like to see a committee develop. He gives an idea: For new comers to the parish, while at mass, have a registration card so they can sign their name and number, and then have the committee call them.
  - v. Lisa's concern is who is responsible for it?
  - vi. Lisa makes a recommendation to table it. Monsignor says we cannot table it.. He asks to look at who's doing who.. Then we need to communicate..
  - vii. Deacon Curtis: Have communication committee draft a registration card..
  - viii. Have ownership so that it doesn't fall to the crash.
  - ix. Msgr.: The most important thing is to recruit ushers.
  - x. Jason: Do we have a database for email address. A good place to start is to find a master email list. John Webster replies: The data base does not have the full information of everyone registered.
- b. Lisa asks to have a conference call with the Community Vitality. It will take place the 14th of March at 7:30 p.m.
- c. Jason: Matthew Kelley is a speaker... We're back on the list to have him on our list.

### **VIII. Announcements**

- A. Lenten Renewal: Reconciliation. Rekindle the Flame of faith (3/11-3/13)  
Please attend.
- B. Msgr.: Announces that the parish received a bequest of a half million dollars. Some of this money will be used for bathroom repairs at the Parish Center, heating system at the Parish Center. There are people who are calling to buy one of our properties. Msgr. is not interested in them.
- C. Msgr.: School needs painting.
- D. Jason has an announcement to make:  
The homeless who used to beg outside of the parish on Sundays passed away from exposure. Jason asks can there be an announcement or something done about this so that people are aware of what happens. Anna's idea is to encourage people to be more aware of the needy people in our area. Msgr.'s thinking: Put together a flyer and a sign and take up a second collection, and make a collection to the homeless. See how the collection will be distributed. Monsignor asks Anna to make the flyer and follow up.
- E. Lisa: There will be an event on October 20, from 8am to 5pm sponsored by the African Community and Catholic Charities. She asks: Can they have a fundraising event at St. Michaels? Msgr. asks Lisa to make sure this is legit and follow up.
- F. Msgr. asks to form intentions to get your ideas to work on Lent.

### **IX. Closing Prayer**

**Father LuisMarroquin**

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 1, 2019 in the Rectory**