



St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
Monday, September 10, 2018
7:00 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL 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. Luis Marroquin, Cristina Sian, Michael Wagner, Marisela Tobar, Jason Giovannettone, John Webster, Eliamelisa Gonzalez, Lisa Taylor, Lilian Corvera, Helder Hernandez, Edwin Mendez.

Guests: C. Grace Whiting, Anna Maria Vincent, Cecilia Flores.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Lisa Taylor 7:02 p.m.

- a. Everyone introduced to each other.

II. Opening Prayer/Reflection

Msgr. Tolentino

- a. Monsignor is glad everyone has listened to the call to be at the first meeting of the parish council 2018-2019, and has indicated that the council is not elected so that it can be a representation of all the ethnicities present at Saint Michael's.
- b. Isaiah 35:4-7A was proclaimed and Monsignor invited everyone to reflect on the word.

III. June Minutes

Lisa Taylor

- a. Approved.
- b. Monsignor has reminded that minutes need to be sent in advance of the meeting so everyone can have a chance to read them and be ready to motion at the meeting.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Lisa Taylor

- a. Move Michaelmas and impression of Holy Hour/Listening session as first points, and then rest of agenda items will follow as proposed.
- b. Add to pending item requested by John Webster: Raising our children in the Catholic faith.

V. Michaelmas

Cecilia Flores

- a. Monsignor gave a brief history of Michaelmas. It began as a Mass on a Sunday that was closer to the feast day, but later it has evolved to become a bigger celebration representing all the cultural heritage of our parish. It is the opportunity for all communities to come together, worship and to have fellowship and celebration.
- b. Monsignor has thanked Cecilia Flores for all the hard work done the previous years as chair of Michaelmas Committee.
- c. Cecilia Flores gave a report to the council on all the preparation.
 - i. Idea for future leadership has been to have someone co-lead Michaelmas this year so that the person co-leading can take the lead the following year.
 - ii. Volunteers: In progress.
 - iii. Communications: Going well. It is following the strategy of last year and communications committee members are helping with its process.
 - iv. Entertainment: (Andrew Kilpa, Tony Calaro and Sandra B.) Going well. DJ – Shared cost with Filipino Community. Magician will also have a presentation, and folkloric dances from: USA, Central America, Africa, and Youth.
 - v. Administration/Logistics: (Cecilia and Nicole) Budget was submitted in May for \$8.8 K. 4 vendors were analyzed and committee decided to stay with the same vendor as last year.
 - vi. Service: (Ana) Catholic Social Teaching will happen in the morning. There will be a service table placed in the Williamsburg Room with information on all the Service Committee and service sign up with information about each organization. Monsignor gave idea for service committee to create a booklet with all service information.
 - i. There will be appetizers for everyone in the church plaza prior to the beginning of the social teaching session.
 - ii. Service Committee asks for help for set-up outside. Idea came up to have confirmation students come and help prepare everything outside in early morning.
 - vii. Pot luck Dinner (John) So far, 19 people have signed up for Hispanic Table and 9 for USA table. Each region will bring its own desserts. Eliamelisa volunteered for NCW to bring soft drinks and water.
 - viii. Decorating (Janice) and Set-up and tear down: (Jaime): Set-up of tables and chairs and decoration will take place on Friday evening. This will give a chance for everyone to be present for Catholic Social Teaching session in the morning. Decoration will be with fall colors and flowers will be selected and ordered this week. There will be also be a tent in front and extra seating of the church that will provide finger food and hopefully it will ease the congestion in Williamsburg Room.
 - ix. Assistance from Parish Council: Presence and support at Pot Luck Dinner. After Mass: Grace before meal and instruct about the extra tent in front.
 - x. Worship: Monsignor Tolentino and Scot in charge. Committee asks that Statue of Saint Michael the Archangel is placed in church.

VI. Impressions of Holy Hour/Listening Session

Monsignor Tolentino

- a. A letter from Darrell Smith was read at the Parish Council. Main points were:
 - i. Beautiful service.
 - ii. Appreciated the listening component of it and what each individual said.
 - iii. Do anything similar in the future. Have a Spanish/English interpreter. Attendance was well distributed between our ethnicities.
 - iv. Mentioned second reading of past Sunday speaking about a person in shabby clothes, and mentioned the fact about a lady been among the people that seemed to have a mental disability. She was asked to have the microphone and speak but was not handed down the microphone. Earlier, the lady had said some negative comments about a Spanish song and prayer and said she didn't understand what was said and was unkind. Darrell asks: Wasn't that lady the one in shabby cloth and why she wasn't given an opportunity to speak. Was it because she said the unkind comments about the Spanish singing?
 - v. What to do next? Maybe Zero Tolerance theme for the New Year might not be heard in the right context and instead maybe have Defend Dignity as a theme to follow up? In the listening session there was a desire for more knowledge. Perhaps we can build on the upcoming session we have scheduled for the morning of Michaelmas where we will explore Catholic Social Teaching in the context of our cultural mosaic. We could have another listening session with Advent on the different actions the Church has taken and is taking to prevent sexual abuse. We could follow in the New Year with a lesson on our teaching of human dignity.
 - vi. Darrell thanks Monsignor for the Holy Hour/Listening session and prays for the continuation of the discussion within our parish.
- b. Monsignor answered Darrel Smith's letter, and referred him to read an article from the Washington Post on September 3 about the relationship of Benedict XVI and Francis. Also Monsignor asks everyone to read the encyclical of Benedict XVI: Deus Caritas East, where Benedict also speaks about charity and taking care of the poor.
- c. Grace Whiting comments:
 - i. Represents the angry catholic
 - ii. Didn't like Monsignor's sermon on Sunday because it doesn't emphasize a lot on the responsibility of the sexual perpetrators
 - iii. Grace didn't know about the listening session and would love to be present. It was not well communicated.
 - iv. She has been Presbyterian, and Anglican.
 - v. Have concerns with Cardinal Wuerl. People want to know what will happen. She thinks there is an illegal conspiracy going on.
 - vi. Virtus class does nothing to prevent.

- vii. Problem is not about homosexuality.
- viii. There needs to be an authentic acknowledgement from clergy in reference to sexual abuse.
- ix. Outreach to absent parishioners.
- x. Expansion of Virtus Training.
- xi. She feels like it's been no progress.

d. Monsignor Tolentino's response:

- i. Agrees with everything Grace mentioned about the feeling of injustice.
- ii. The same way people of color feel when they are not treated with justice.
- iii. There is no excuse about the crimes. If it is a crime, it is a crime.
- iv. Cardinal Wuerl: Since he was bishop in Pennsylvania, there has been zero tolerance. Everyone who was charged was reported, but only that one person.

e. Anna Maria Vincent comments:

- i. Feeling very angry as well about the cover up.
- ii. There has to be acknowledgement from clergy on the wounds done to victims.
- iii. The listening session was poorly communicated.
- iv. A whole lot more can be done.
- v. Commenting on how people of color feel unjustly treated doesn't even compare about how a person who was been sexually abused and treated unjustly.
 - 1. Anna Maria spoke angry and wanted to leave.
 - 2. Monsignor asked her not to leave.
 - 3. Monsignor also said to think about how also she has made him feel.

- f. Monsignor Tolentino called for the meeting to be adjourned due to increased emotional commentary. Meeting was adjourned.

Lisa Taylor

VII. Parish Retreat

- a. Lisa only reminded everyone to save the date for the annual parish council retreat: November 9-11.

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.