



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
September 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER PC MEETING

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. Jose Rodriguez, Deacon Oscar Mendez, Lisa Taylor, Helder Hernandez, Esnath Mtonga, Edwin Mendez, Christina Sian, Eliamelisa Gonzalez, John Webster, Renee Holder, Marisela Tobar, Cynthia Lewis, Cindy Mendez.

I. Call to Order

Lisa Taylor

II. Opening Prayer/Reflection

Msgr. Tolentino

Monsignor Tolentino reflected on the cross of our Lord and our own crosses and asked all PC members to give their thoughts.

III. Approval of the May Minutes

Lisa Taylor

Anna first
Eliamelisa seconded

IV. Approval of Agenda

Lisa Taylor

Have Jason G. to speak first.
John W. first
Edwin seconded

V. Jason G. Report

Jason – Green Project update

The green project on a stand still for a while. We got a quote of doing a first phase of digging the cement behind the parish center and putting a rain garden. We still have the contractor on board whom we agreed on a quote. It's about \$40,000.00. They have been waiting for 1 year until we get the funds. We get a rebate for \$17,000 from the county. This means we have to come up with this fund, and then the county gives it back. An organization gave a grant for about \$10,000. Lisa and John – thank you for this. This brings it to \$27,000.00. There is a deadline of 12 months so that we do not lose this. We

can get \$20 thousand dollars from the patrimony so we can get this first phase done, so that then we can go to phase 2 and phase 3. Also, there is a woman from the National Wildlife Federation. She has taken interest in our parish in helping with Green Committee. She was helping with Darrell with doing the native plant project.

Monsignor says there are so many parishioners who do not have any idea about this. He asks to go back to Green Committee to write a report and timeline to bring back to us.

There are also \$5,000 mini-grants to groups of color to get involved in anything environmental and green. Idea is to do packages, workshops, and field trips to educate the community about the importance of taking care of the environment. Jason asks Helder if Hispanic Committee can work on this. Monsignor suggests to take this back to the committee, have parishioners work on preparing bags, and then plan a fieldtrip. Helder has agreed to bring this back to the committee.

At this point we need the budget to see how it will be allocated.

VI. Parish Council Membership

Msgr. Tolentino

Today, Monsignor received from Helder a message about Hispanic Committee and 2 new members will be joining. As of Parish Council, Monsignor is looking for suggestions on how to move forward if we need to have new members. Another idea is will they be appointed or will they be elected. Lisa mentions that everyone's term is expired except for Cynthia Lewis. The idea is to have a three year term. John Webster asks if we have open seats. Eliamelisa agrees to have a communication email or announcement to invite. Lisa mentions that this is not successful sometimes, and it helps more to have personal invitations. Monsignor asks Lisa to call on the participants of the council's meeting to see how do we want to move forward, and then how to fill vacancies.

Anna Smith – Invite the parish to see if they are interested in joining. Anna is interested in retiring. She will do what she can.

Eliamelisa – Give announcement to the parish. She would like to find someone else who would be interested in joining.

Helder – Like the idea of inviting people and open to staying.

Rene – Get new members from the different parish organizations and some of the bigger ones, it is good to reach out to each of them. Maybe having a member from each of the groups to invite others. Reach out to their members to get volunteers. Open to continuing.

Cynthia – She is new, but she would like to say that it would be good to get active members.

Edwin – Open to continue in the parish council and likes the idea of inviting people from different parish organizations.

Christina – Open to continuing and will ask the Filipino committee if he would.

Maricela – Likes the idea about opening it to the parishioners to invite them to join.

Esnath – Open to the idea of announcing it to the parish. It would be good to have another African community representative. In the meantime, she will continue to attend the meetings, but will work hard to be replaced.

John Webster – Would like to add that throughout 2020-2021 we have noted that there are new faces, we see several people registering online. We should reach out to them.

Lisa – She wishes to retire. She understands the need to help but she will leave it out to Monsignor to see what we need to do.

Fr. Jose – Almost all parish council members are active members. Maybe there can be elections. If it's open, then we can see to get new members. Be open as well in the community to be eligible to represent the group and the community.

Deacon Mendez – Like all the recommendations. He gives idea that the we help Monsignor look at families that are active in the church and bring to him for a decision.

Cindy Mendez – Agrees with everyone's ideas. Personal and open invitation.

Monsignor – Monsignor hears that all PC members are willing to continue except for Esnath that has promised to find another African representative. We do not just want to let the old members go, but yes we should get new members. Monsignor agrees that we should announce it. If we announce it, we need to mention what is the mission of the parish council. Put a package together. It is a good idea to recruit and a good idea to announce it, and recruit active families.

VII. Organizations and Ministries

Msgr. Tolentino

Everyone has been assigned to a ministry. Monsignor asks us to all talk to every single organization and ministry that is our responsibility to oversee. Can we plan an activity with them? It is important to communicate. Monsignor asks that we contact people. Please communicate with clergy who is the leader of each parish vitality to follow up on this. Please, provide feedback by the middle of October. Talk to everybody and have a summary and general idea of what everyone is doing or not doing. Lisa asks: What questions should we ask – Monsignor says: Please figure out the questions. Lisa will come up with questions to give to the PC members.

VIII. Michaelmas

Msgr. Tolentino

What do we do this year? Michaelmas will be celebrated at all weekend masses on October 2 and 3. Should we have a celebration after mass? Idea is to have all masses celebrating St. Michael's and have the flags placed in the altar instead of procession, and after each mass, have a light refreshment and fellowship. There was also a recommendation to have a call to service, have a pledge card – Have parishioners see where can they offer talent, treasure, time in the 7 principles. Helder, Lisa and Eliamelisa to lead this effort.

Eliamelisa asks: Will we have a budget for the light refreshments, or will we have people donate the food? Will people be able to share in the church plaza after mass. Helder mention we should do like what we did at Deacon Mendez reception. People enjoyed and stayed after each Mass. Monsignor says: We will have a budget.

Monsignor recommends that we need to have a decision on what will we have after each mass for refreshments. Cindy says to have food from each country. We maybe can have a sign-up sheet. Lisa, Helder, Cindy, and Eliamelisa will meet to plan ahead. Monsignor suggests that NCW can have an Agape that weekend as well.

IX. Buildings and Grounds

Msgr. Tolentino

Monsignor asks Cindy to let the PC know what are the projects going on:

Cindy:

Renovation of all public bathrooms in the parish center.

Flooring for the PC basement.

Flooring to be replaced in the rectory and carpet.

And Green Project phase 1.

Restroom in the Williamsburg Room.

JUAC requested to remodel the basement of the Parish Center.

Ramon and father are setting up a painting day.

We got new tables for classroom 12.

X. Finance Council Report

John Webster

July: 79,321.

Expenses: \$87,109

Net: \$7,788.00

Capital investment account: \$9,779.

Pew restoration: \$48,342

Monsignor asked about the capital accounts:

ASB – \$585,774.00

Patrimony - \$379,268.00

Annual Appeal –

Goal for 2020: \$122,100.00

2021: \$88,900.00

So far in 2021: \$46,602.

Total: 340, and total of this year: 215.

Total amount paid: \$48,963

This year: \$35,358.

Monsignor gives a recommendation: We need to publish all this information and encourage people. We should also do the: Take the next step campaign.

From Purple Line we will have: More than \$7 hundred thousand dollars.

Lisa would like to thank John for all the hard work that he does.

- a. **Grant Opportunity:** <https://lbcharitablefoundation.org/> - Jason spoke about this at [the beginning of the meeting.](#)

XI. Hispanic Committee Report

Helder Hernandez

Next meeting is next Monday, September 20 – Since the time they met, Hispanic Committee have been working on 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching. They had 2 Covid-19 vaccination clinics at the parish. They might be planning a third vaccination clinic.

As Monsignor mentioned, we have 2 new members joining the Hispanic Committee - From the Charismatic Renewal prayer Group, Ester Contreras will join. She is the new coordinator. Mauricio Ayala is no longer coordinating the Charismatic Group. Also, new coordinator for the ushers is: Luis Enrique Vaquiz who will also join the committee. Alex Andino is no longer coordinating the ushers ministry.

Hispanic Heritage month – September 15 through October 15. Idea is to have a dialogue and have Lia Salinas, Director for Hispanic Ministry for Archdiocese of Baltimore to give a bilingual talk. She said she is available October 2nd. Along with that, as we did the previous year before the pandemic, have a bilingual mass sometime in October. October 10 will be the date for the Hispanic Heritage bilingual mass. Monsignor approved this. This will serve as our annual bilingual mass instead of Michaelmas weekend.

In reference to the immigration forum – still pending.

a. Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini-grant for Hispanic environmental initiative

XII. 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Lisa Taylor

Lisa would like to remind everyone to continue thinking about the Catholic Social Teaching.

XIII. Administrative Matters

Lisa Taylor

- a. **Hispanic Heritage Month** – Helder already spoke about this at the Hispanic Committee Report.
- b. **Articles for the Parish Times** – Ongoing request. Last month we did not have anything. Lisa will be interviewing Deacon Mendez.
- c. **Education Committee** - From now on, parish council will take lead about celebrating the different months.
- d. **Bookcase in the Vestibule for Religious Materials** – Monsignor will buy a bookshelf.
- e. **Upcoming Meeting Schedule** – First Monday of the month.

XIV. Pending Business

Lisa Taylor/Parish Council

XV. New Business

Lisa Taylor

XVI. Closing Prayer

Father Jose

Next Meeting: October 4, 2021