



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
March 1, 2021
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. José Rodriguez, Lisa Taylor, Esnath Mtonga, John Webster, Cynthia Lewis, Cristina Sian, Helder Hernandez, Marisela Tobar, Edwin Méndez.

- I. Call to Order** 7:06 p.m. **Lisa Taylor**
- II. Opening Prayer/Reflection** **Msgr. Tolentino**
- III. Approval of the January Minutes** **Lisa Taylor**
John Webster, first
Cristina, seconded
- IV. Approval of Agenda** **Eliamelisa Gonzalez**
Sodality Report is moved to IX. Monsignor will comment on this later.

John Webster, first
Edwin Mendez, seconded
- V. Finance Council Report** **John Webster**
Income: Collections for the month of January \$59,889.00
Other income: \$17,106.00
January 31, 2021 total \$76,995.00
Expenses \$74,744.00
Operating deficit 2,251.00 for the month
Fiscal year to date: Deficit \$71,242.00
Pew Restoration total to date: \$35,000.00

Monsignor Tolentino: Given the pandemic, we are doing remarkably well. He would like to have assistance from the Finance Council to thank people for their generosity. We need to encourage people to give more. Not specifically money but our services as well.

There are so many people who are in need right now. Monsignor does not think that the members of the church necessarily see them, and we need to work on this.

Two people approached Monsignor recently – One said he is living on a fixed income because of retirement, but he signed up for Faith Direct for \$100.00 per month and another who is retired and a lector sent a check for \$300.00 to the parish and \$50.00 for Annual Appeal. How can we better use our online platforms to let the community know of what is going on? There is so much more that we are doing and that we can share with others.

In terms of videos, can we record a video of Monsignor to place on the website? Lisa advises also we need to make videos of others and what others are doing.

Mention this to Janice in the next Communications Committee.

Monsignor Tolentino: What we need to publish has to do with the seven principles. On another note, please remember, whenever we have new items to mention in the meeting, they need to be added to our agenda.

VI. Hispanic Committee Report

Helder Hernandez

Hispanic Committee had our last meeting on February 8 in which Fr. Jose gave a review/evaluation of the last 6 months that he has been a parochial vicar at St. Michaels.

Hispanic Committee encouraged parishioners to sign up for the annual appeal and participate in the Catholic Charities monthly food drive by donating non-perishable items. We are impressed at the number of non-perishable items that the community have brought. We have seen the interest of people.

In terms of the translation system we are planning a campaign during the month of march to help Spanish speaking parishioners download the “Listen everyone” app, on their phones. We have also been able to assist parishioners during the month of February. We used the application at the 4pm Bilingual Mass for the rite of sending on February 27. At the beginning, there were some connection problems with the WIFI but later it worked well.

Hispanic Committee has also provided members with the Covid-19 vaccine information. People have expressed interest. Immigration status should not be a problem. Sonya has been good in helping.

Information about the Black History month was also provided to parishioners and mentioned the invitation to attend the weekly online discussions as well as reading the emails with the African American History.

In terms of activities:

Virtual series of Catechesis on Catholic Social Teaching has begun and is presented by Fr. Jose Rodriguez. At the first catechesis, there were over 60 participants.

A Virtual workshop in Spanish on the seven themes of Catholic Social teaching will be presented on March 20 from 10AM to 12PM. This workshop was supposed to take place

last year and it was postponed because of the pandemic. As of right now, we have received registrations already. It is rewarding to see what is going on. Workshop will be in Spanish. English translation will be provided.

Immigration Forum in Spanish – Saturday, May 15 from 10am to 12pm. Lisa asks if we can have an immigration forum in English? Helder will work on this.

In reference to the Mass, we have been making sure we are maintaining safety measures. Cynthia offers Helder to share a document which talks about 5 tips for researching the vaccine.

VII. Telephonic Outreach to Parishioners

Thank you for all that have been doing the phone calls. Please remember to send our notes for each phone call. Please email Cindy to ask her to grant you permission to edit the excel document.

There were several numbers that could not be reached.

Phone calls have worked pretty well. People have been welcoming. The idea was given that it would be great to approach and call people later not just because of this campaign.

Monsignor would like to thank Maricela for been in the council. He has known Maricela since she was little. She has now graduated from college and is teaching Elementary School. It's very important that she has a good experience of the parish council.

VIII. 7 Principles Service

Lisa Taylor

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

Each Thursday from 7pm to 8pm there have been online discussion on the sin of racism. Black History Month. We had Caucasian persons joining the event as well. They were very interested in the topic and joined from Washington state. Education Committee has met to implement the seven principles – they have developed a plan.

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

Edwin has mentioned that he has been publishing information that John Webster has shared about couples' workshop and inviting people to attend. Monsignor would like to encourage Edwin to continue working on this important principle.

c. Rights and Responsibilities (Marisela Tobar)

Nothing at the moment

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

Anna had a death in the family and was not able to attend the meeting tonight.

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

Nothing new to report at this time.

f. Solidarity (Cristina Sian)

Cristina would like to present to the council the work that Catholic Charities do through the Share Food Network – At the moment, they are in the process of

reaching out to help different churches, and they help people lower their budgets for food. Would our church be interested to place this on our website? Or know more information about it? Edwin shared with the council the link to the website of this program and Lisa will speak later to Cristina about this. Edwin mentions we have a monthly catholic charities food drive the last weekend of each month at our parish. Monsignor asks to see how can we combine these two programs in our parish.

In the Filipino ministries there was a wedding vows renewal celebration in February on the third Sunday Mass.

g. Care for God's Creation (Vacant)

Lisa ask members to sign up to Monday emails.

March 15 at 7pm, there will be an online event in English and Spanish – St. Michael's Green Team's Care for Creation at Home webinar, being held for our parish in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

Can we consider to invite Darrell to make a presentation whenever is necessary of what the parish is doing in terms of the Green Committee. Ask Darrell or Jason.

IX. Administrative Matters

Lisa Taylor

a. Articles for the Parish Times – Deadline is March 8

There have been a lot of good information of what we have been doing. Please help writing articles about it.

Please look at the vitalities that we are responsible for so we can go over at our next meeting. Do the same thing for the 7 principles. Also, we need to call the vitalities to stay in touch with them and see how is each vitality doing. Lisa will schedule with Monsignor meetings for Administration and Worship next week.

b. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- 1. April 5, 2021**
- 2. May 3, 2021**
- 3. June 7, 2021**

X. Pending Business

Lisa Taylor/Parish Council

- a. Partnership Fund Application for compensation for damage to church property.

XI. New Business

Lisa Taylor

Sodality Report – Cynthia Lewis provided us with a report. The Sodality was pleased to call the parishioners. They ask for a little bit more time.

Monsignor Tolentino has approved the outreach to Young Adults. The Sodality has slated a three-part series for young adults on the sodality and Mary's role in salvation history. Father Pawel Sass is the desired speaker. The series will also present a discussion of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Sodality introduced its annual 33-day preparation period for the Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary on Sunday, February 8, 2021.

The Annual Sodality Communion Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 2, 2021 as a virtual event and fundraiser for the parish. Cardinal Gregory will be invited as the speaker. Parishioners will be honored for their service and dedication.

Cynthia thanks the communications committee for posting the rosary as a regular entry in the parish events.

The Sodality with the assistance of fellow parish ministries hosted a dedication to Our Lady of Guadalupe in anticipation of her feast day.

In celebration of Black Catholic History Month, Sister Marcia Hall, delivered a talk on the life and legacy of Servant of God Mother Mary Lange.

After Cynthia presented the report, Father Jose also mentioned the following:

- How can we celebrate the year of St. Joseph at St. Michael's?
Monsignor Tolentino: We need to plan to do something on this.
- The Cardinal is coming to celebrate Mass with us this Sunday, March 7.
- Thank you to all who celebrated Black History Month.

Lisa Taylor: There are three more meetings until the end of the parish council year, and for some parish council members their terms will be finishing, and we need to begin to think how will we fill these positions. Monsignor asks everyone to pray about it.

XII. Closing Prayer

Father Jose

Next Meeting: April 5, 2020

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.