

PPC Meeting – February 22, 2022

St. Michael the Archangel Meeting Room

Members Present: Friar John, Chris Kline, Sister Sue, Shaun Rutherford, Jen Nezzio, Kimberly Lavalley, Dennis Boland, Belkys Pinzon, Vargas, Jim Kraus, Mary Dohmeier, Elizabeth Goral-Makowski, Jim Buckler, and Ben Romero

The meeting began at 7:07 p.m with Mary Dohmeier leading prayer.

1. The **minutes from January's meeting** were approved.
2. The **PPC roster** was reviewed and was approved with some corrections.
3. Shaun Rutherford was elected **recording secretary**.
4. The need for members to sign **confidentiality statements** was discussed. It was generally agreed that this practice was not necessary. It was felt that most members understood or would be informed when it was necessary to keep sensitive information confidential until decisions were made and ready to share with parish members. It is the desire of the group to be as transparent as possible. Council meeting minutes can be found on the MIAC website.
5. **Advocates for Organizations** – At January's meeting members were asked to look at the list of organizations in the By-Laws for which they would like to be advocates. Chris asked that we respond to her by e-mail by 3/1/22 to let her know our preferences.
6. **Maintenance Issues by Parish** – the question on this issue was how would PPC handle parish-specific issues. Generally, each parish knows what issues it needs to take care of and is responsible for raising the funds to fix them. Chris Kline thought it would be helpful for the churches to share when they were raising money to fix an issue in case one of the other parishes might want to contribute money to help or had extra funds to share.
7. **Social Media Contact** – Currently, Amy Smith is the contact for all social media concerns.
 - Dennis Boland mentioned that St. Michael's has a Facebook page, but it does not seem to be updated and suggested that we should have one FB page for the pastorate, so it is updated regularly.
 - Margaret agreed there should be one FB page for the pastorate since we are one organization now. Margaret also suggested that we should make more use of Flocknotes as an efficient means of communication. She explained that this program is run through the Archdiocese and that each parish has an account. Chris Kline said they will talk to Amy about this.
 - Sr. Sue suggested that Amy, Dennis, and Nikki put together a report on the current status of each parish's FB or website and then maybe suggest where to go in the future. Margaret is willing to work on it as well.
 - Margaret indicated that we need a strong presence on social media and that we really need to be on Instagram since the young aren't using FB. Shaun Rutherford was willing to help. Margaret said she would contact Amy.
 - Chris Kline asked that they prepare a report for the next PPC meeting.

As a side note, Barbara mentioned that when the Archdiocese began with online giving, it was popular, but seemed to lose steam. She suggested it should be re-invigorated and further encouraged as it makes money counting easier.

8. **Synod Listening Sessions** – Sr. Sue passed out copies of information from the e-mail she sent council members about the listening sessions. She said that the Archdiocese pays attention to numbers and that it is important to get people to participate to have our voices heard. She said the Pope wants to know what the faithful are thinking
- Logistics were discussed first in terms of how many sessions? Themes? Day/Night? Barbara from St. Clements indicated that there would have to be a day session for the elderly as they prefer not to come out at night. It was generally agreed that each parish should have a day and an evening session.
 - Margaret already has two set up for the youth. She thought it would be a good idea to take one of the Sunday meetings for youth and host an adult meeting simultaneously. She also suggested that we need to advertise and even call people personally to come to the listening sessions.
 - Lizette shared that the Spanish community already set their date for sessions on Saturday, March 19th and that they have been advertising and discussing it at the Spanish masses. Belkys made a power point which she can share. Belkys had a pamphlet from the Archdiocese describing the Synod, explaining its purpose, and how to conduct the sessions. She noticed that the questions for the discussion seem to apply to ministers on one hand, and parishioners on the other. The Spanish community is going to have a session that focuses more on ministers, and then, a session that focuses on regular parishioners. Belkys also had a clipboard with a sign-up sheet to use after the Spanish masses for people to sign-up for sessions.
 - Sr. Sue said she can come up with some questions and asked if any members had suggestions. Friar John said, “How do you want to do church going into the future?”
 - Jen Nezzio said that outreach is important and that we sell the sessions as an opportunity to hear each other’s stories about our own faith journeys and to hear from those who have left and why.
 - Mary Dohmeier suggested that we ask the question, “What would be the ideal way of doing church for you or what do you think would make the ideal church?”
 - Belkys noted that the Pope needs to hear our opinions to know in what direction to lead the church.
 - Barbara indicated that reaching out to shut-ins in some way is necessary.
 - Margaret said she is going to approach the youth with the idea that they have a magic wand and could use it to create the church they need. How would they use it to change their local church, the U.S. church, and the international church? Also, what does church mean to them?
 - Sr. Sue added the question, “What is your experience of faith or spirituality? since many say they are spiritual but not religious.
 - After consultation with the group, it was decided that we are not ready for the March 8th session and that a little more organizing and advertising for the non-specific group sessions (not sure what to call the group that is not the youth and not Spanish) is needed. The Spanish will be going forward with their sessions on March 19th, and Margaret will go forward with her sessions with the youth on the 13th and 20th with the meeting on the 20th possibly being a split with adults.

9. **Knights of Columbus** – Ben reported that the Fr. A. Leo Abendschoen Knights of Columbus is going strong and is happy to assist any of the three parishes with any fundraising efforts, minor repairs,

recognizing or honoring altar servers, etc. He recognized that St. Michael's is already associated with the Cardinal Gibbons Council, but wanted all to know they are there and ready to serve.

-Dennis Boland noticed that St. Michael's council doesn't have anything advertised in the bulletin at St. Michael's. He suggested that maybe Ben's group at St. Clement's could reach out to St. Michael's to offer service. Shaun agreed that if the Cardinal Gibbons Council wasn't as active at St. Michael's that reaching out to the Fr. Leo Abenschoen Council wouldn't hurt. Chris suggested that Ben reach out to the Cardinal Gibbons Council first to see if the Fr. Leo Abenschoen Council could offer to be involved at St. Michael's as well.

10. The **Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries (AACM)** is coming up this Sunday, the 27th. The in-pew registration will take place during the mass. Tuesday, 3/1/22, is designated as Giving Tuesday and online giving to the campaign will be encouraged.

Other Business –

-The **Lenten/Easter schedule** is printed and will be in the bulletins starting this weekend. The usual tri-fold that is mailed is not being done this year.

-Friar John informed the group that the Archdiocese is hosting **Mental First Aid classes** for which you can earn a certificate. Margaret indicated that she is participating in the classes now and that they are very informative on this important topic.

-Dennis Boland alerted the group to the Boy Scouts **"Scouting for Food Drive."** Pick up of food bags will take place on March 13th at St. Michael's. Announcement of this event will go out on March 6th.

-Ben Romero said there would be a **"Breakfast with the Easter Bunny"** in April hosted by the Knights. More information forthcoming.

11. **Schedule for future PPC Meetings** – Chris wanted to set dates for all upcoming meetings. All decided that Tuesday nights work best for the group. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15th at 7 p.m in the St. Michael's Meeting Room. Chris will look at the calendar and determine dates for the April, May, and June meetings. There are no meetings in July and August.

12. **Prayer Leader Volunteer** – Elizabeth will lead the prayers at the March meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:45 with a closing prayer led by Mary Dohmeier.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary R. Dohmeier