

St. Michael the Archangel  
Parish Council Minutes  
November 11, 2009

**Council members present:** Jack Boumeester, Ed Carey, Phil Duran, Randy Fortuin, MaryAnn Kendrick, Perry Monkelain, Jackie Morales, Randy Perlis, Jamie Roles III, Tim Shively, Peter Smith, Tom Werzyn

**Excused:** Kathy Mallach

**Admin members present:** Evelina Fortajada, Judith Guyre, Catherine Miller, Ginnie Taylor

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Schively

A discussion led by Fr. Fox ensued on the article the council members were asked to read before the November meeting - "Leadership In Changing Times"

**Fr. Fox:** Any thoughts?

Randy F.: Bishop Hubbard uses the word "change" and advises that we need to be leaders and managers of change. We are moving toward the modernization of media - retreats and the like are not effective in reaching the people at large.

Tom W.: The community at large has a responsibility to convey the message.

Jack B.: But with technology we lose the intimate touch. We don't have the hands on ability to give true meaning of what and who we are.

Randy P.: In trying to be proactive leaders how do we know we are going in the right direction? We have elderly who like the traditions of the past and the young who want the newer technology.

Randy F.: What is Pope John Paul II's *Novo Millennio Ineunte*?

Fr. Fox: It is translated "As A New Millennium Dawns". Go to the Vatican website and enter John Paul II in the search engine, click on "Apostolic Letters" and scroll down to *Novo Millennio Ineunte*.

Fr. Fox: Following are excerpts from the "Leadership In Changing Times" article:

1) In *Novo Millennio Ineunte* our Holy Father makes clear that as we move into the third millennium we should not be seduced by the naive expectation that there is some magic formula that will resolve all the problems and issues that lie along the path. Rather, he observes, "we shall not be saved by a formula but by a person [the person of Jesus Christ] and the assurance which he gives us: "I am with you."

So my friends, as leaders in pastoral planning and council development it is imperative that your life and ministry be rooted in the person of Jesus Christ.

2) Then in this apostolic letter our Holy Father gives us his priority for the new millennium stating. "I have no hesitation in saying that all pastoral initiatives must be set in relation to holiness."

3) Our Holy Father notes that there are two practical fruits that should emerge from our response to this universal call to holiness: service to others and the commitment to lifelong faith formation and evangelization. First, service. Like Jesus, we must be persons for others; we must become bread broken and wine poured out that others might have life to the full.

4) A second fruit of our response to the universal call to holiness is a commitment to lifelong faith formation and evangelization.

In their book *Megatrends 2000*, John Naisbitt and Patricia Aburdene identify three trends which underscore the need for this thrust. First, the coauthors suggest that the most exciting breakthrough in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will occur not because of technology but because of the expanding concept of what it means to be human. Second, there will be a renaissance in the arts and spirituality. Third, in the face of growing homogenization, there will be a greater need to preserve our identities, be they religious, cultural, national, linguistic or racial.

Therefore, it will be critically important for us as pastoral planners and council developers, both now and well into the third millennium, to seek ways to respond to the hungers of the 78 million aging baby boomers (born between the 1945 and 1963) and the 38 million Generation Xers (born between the mid-1960s and late 1970s), who in response to numerous polls have stated overwhelmingly that a relationship with God and adherence to one's faith community are important to their lives, even though many of them cannot name any of the four Gospels or more than two or three of the Ten Commandments and attend religious services only sporadically, if at all.

To accomplish this goal will require that we place much more emphasis on faith formation or catechesis as being a lifelong process and on the call to evangelization which is incumbent upon each member of our faith community.

5) Our traditional methods of fostering adult faith formation such as lectures, missions and retreats more and more fall upon barren ground and attract only a corporal's guard. We then, as pastoral leaders in the church, must be creative in utilizing modern communications, for example, cable programming, home videos or the internet and employ more experiential forms of learning such as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process or the process employed in small faith-sharing groups like Cursillo, Marriage Encounter and the charismatic renewal."

Fr. Fox: Whenever we face a problem we must not assume we are the first generation to face this situation; it has been repeated over 2,000 years not just this moment. We need to ask the question "What did our ancestors do" and consult ACTS 15.

6) As we approach the new millennium, therefore, we in the United States should not abandon the intellectual and cultural heritage of the Euro-American West, but we must be open to the intellectual, cultural and spiritual tradition, both written and oral, of Asia, Africa, Native America and Oceania. For example, we will have to become familiar with Buddhist traditions of meditation, varieties of Hindu thought about the relationship between human interiority and the Absolutely Transcendent, African descriptions of what constitutes a human being and the factors that contributed to ideal governance and Native American and Oceanic perceptions of human solidarity and nearness to the divine.

7) Let me underscore I am not suggesting that you as pastoral planners or council developers need to be experts in faith formation, evangelization, ecumenism, interfaith relationships and multi-culturalism, but you must appreciate that these are critical issues which must be on the church's agenda, and you must work with those who have the expertise to ensure that these realities are being addressed constructively at the diocesan and parish levels. Otherwise we will be putting new wine into old wineskins, and our best-laid plans will be inadequate and inappropriate.

8) Therefore, it is imperative that we in the church be joyful heralds of the good news. Gloomy Guses and Sorrowpus Sals have no place in contemporary ministry. Our words, our deeds, our gestures, our presence should communicate to those whom we serve. "I'm delighted to be here, I'm delighted to be with you. I'm delighted to be a herald of the good news." Indeed it is good news that we are called and sent to proclaim. Therefore, we must smile, be happy and show that there is joy in what we are doing because the effectiveness and the credibility of our ministry depend on it.

### **Discussion -**

Perry M.: We must be a people of prayer. The parish is doing a lot of what is mentioned here and we should feel good about the staff and the various ministries.

Peter S.: Our traditions are joyful but how do we get people to relate that to the here and now - the truth of what we are as Catholics?

Fr. Fox: I am asking you to come to the December meeting ready to reflect on **where you are in your personal journey of Faith. Where are you in your relationship to Jesus Christ?**

We will then invite the parish community at large to share their reflections

on these two points on our blog and website. Hopefully many will respond.

Ed C.: I have recently attended (not without hesitation) a retreat for men called: "Marked Men For Christ". The experience has changed my life. They have a sister retreat for women entitled "Women Walking With Christ."

Jack B.: Fr. Fox can you give us an example of how you deal with the issues of ministry.

Fr. Fox: Many people meditate but that does not work well for me. On my journey of faith I love to walk. I listen to tapes for reflection...it's amazing how they can interact. On my walks God graces me with the ability to see the gifts he gives me to make connection of what I see and experience. It all helps to save my sanity.

One hope of mine is to get a set schedule to have the various parish ministries attend a council meeting to inform us of what we have and what is going on. Down the road we will hopefully then have a good understanding of the ministries actions and of their individual needs.

Jack B.: Should we sit in on their meetings?

Fr. Fox: By all means feel free to attend. Introduce yourself as a member of the Parish Council and say you would like to sit in.

Peter S.: Matthew Kelly's pamphlet "Rediscovering Catholicism" costs \$1. Would this be a good handout possibility for the Christmas Masses?

Tom W.: We need to flesh out the website by putting information about it and the blog in announcements at Mass and in the bulletin; make use of the options available.

Catherine M: I have met with Brenda Mabie and it is felt that by having pictures and biographies of the council members on the website that it gives parishioners a point of reference - a way to make the council members more approachable because parishioners then know who they are and at least a little bit about them.

Tom W.: We all are in servant leadership and should be aware of what is going on - keep our eyes and ears open.

Fr. Fox: We are all responsible for what goes on in the parish. A positive side is how much the parishioners trust.

**Next meeting:** December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm

On the agenda:

1. Reflection on where we are on our journey of faith and in our relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Create a schedule to have various ministry speakers attend our council meetings.