
St. Michael Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2010

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: COMMUNICATION

The Three Legs of Support: Money, Communication, and Participation

In previous issues, we covered the first and third legs of support: money and participation. As we approach the mid-point of 2010, it's time to review how we are doing on the first and third legs, and then dive into the second leg – communication.

The First Leg: Money

We generally break even financially compared to previous years. We've made long overdue repairs to the church grounds, and we paid back taxes to the Diocese. Thank you to all parishioners for contributing, especially in the economic times that have beset us. Let's continue to drive St. Michael's Church forward to build her future.

The Third Leg: Participation

The church is fuller than it used to be on Sundays. Rarely seen parishioners worship with us more frequently, and new parishioners join us monthly. People still bring pastries to Sunday coffee hour, the 'usual ushers' signed up for every Sunday they could! Parties have been over-sold: we set a capacity and had to find ways to exceed it in order to accommodate everyone that wanted to attend. Thank you for coming to events hosted by the church; we've got more planned this year!

The Second Leg: Communication

Communication is the hardest leg to address at St. Michael's. The church and her congregation haven't changed in many years. Only in the last couple years have parishioners pushed for change to keep the church open in the 21st century. In addition, the parishioners we serve come from a diverse background. We have Romanians, Americans, and everyone in between. We speak Romanian, English, Hungarian, and German. We have people who frequent the Internet and expect St. Michael Church to be present there, and we have people who don't want anything to do with computers or the Internet and feel, if we created a website, the church would be ruined. We have people who love this newsletter and people who complain about every word of every issue.

So what do we do?

We must push forward with 21st century communication while preserving the past that makes St. Michael Church worth keeping open. Not many churches in the United States function after 100 years. "Don't let your past dictate who you are, but let it be a part of who you will become."¹

How do we do this?

First, we create a website. This website allows us to be found by Romanians, Americans, and anyone else wishing to celebrate God the way we do. Cristian Gingu created a beautiful website, capturing historical documents and St. Michael Church history. In addition, a year's worth of bulletins and newsletters were placed in an electronic archive.

Second, we better utilize the newsletter, both through the Internet and through the mail. Yes, sending it only electronically would save money. But not everyone wants to be plugged into the Internet, and that's fine. We'll provide electronic copies for Internet folks, paper versions in the back of the church for regular attendees, and send out copies to those who cannot attend due to physical constraints or distance.

Third, we need to engage each other. I hesitate to join conversations because my Romanian is poor ... ok, it's rotten. To that end, if I am Chair, I should learn Romanian, so as of May, I started learning Romanian. I tried my skills out during coffee hour ... thank you for not laughing too hard! As I made new friends, they said they always wanted to talk to me but were nervous because their English was not very good. Let's be frank: my Romanian is far worse than anyone else's English. Let's not let the language barrier continue to be a barrier.

Fourth, the Committees need to be visible. Of the 100+ families that are members of St. Michael's Church, how many could name all the members of each Committee and put a face to the name? I would be pleasantly surprised if even ¼ of the families could do it. At my grandparents' Church in Wisconsin, everyone knows the Committees, everyone is comfortable talking with them about ideas and concerns, and they are doing well financially and in building a strong church community. That's my benchmark.

Looking to the Future

I see parishioners having picnics, grilling food as children play together. I see bake sales where we turn people away because we can't make enough prajitura to satiate the public. I hear a choir singing in both English and Romanian, with parishioners singing just as loud as the choir members (I grew up in a very loud church, and this one is way too quiet!). I see a website that gets visited daily as people check to see what's new. As Chair, if I don't have a vision of where we need to go as a church, we won't go anywhere and I don't deserve to be Chair. Above is part of my vision, and I need to continue to share it and provide details on how we execute it. What's your vision?

Where do you see St. Michaels Church in 5-years? 10-years? 20-years? Send me an email: christopher.meyer@live.com. Or give me a call: 630.853.6200. Share your vision, your thoughts, your concerns. God bless. ❖

¹ Quote from "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

Don't forget to pay your membership for 2010.

- ◆ \$100/single
- ◆ \$200/family
- ◆ \$60/ 65+ years of age

Please write
MEMBERSHIP 2010
in the memo section of
your check.

Upcoming Events

JUNE PICNIC – Mititei and Beer



On **Sunday, June 27, 2010**, St. Michael will host a picnic following the Sunday liturgy (services start at 10am). Please bring your family and friends to this Parish celebration. Included in the menu items will be Father Pater's famous *mititei* (chicken will be available for kids).

Prices are as follows (cash or check), payable on the date of the event:

Kids under 6 yrs. old -- \$ 0.00
7 yrs. old – 12 yrs. old -- \$ 6.00
13 yrs. old and older -- \$15.00

All drinks are included: water, soft drinks, beer and whiskey.

MITITEI SALE



Father Pater will be making and selling his famous mititei for the 4th of July weekend. To place an order, please call him directly at 630.897.8115.

Prices are \$5.50/lb.

Orders will be taken until Sunday, June 20, 2010. Orders will not be taken after that date.

CHURCH REPAIRS



On Monday, June 14, 2010, we will start some much needed renovations to the Church property. The parking lot will be repaired, and the roof on the Pierce St. house will be replaced.

Please consider make a tax deductible contribution towards this endeavor. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



Sunday school has been suspended for the summer.

When we resume school in the Fall, we'd like to make some changes. Many parents have expressed interest in Sunday School being taught in English and in Romanian; to that end, we are recruiting both English and Romanian speakers to teach. We will update you with more details at the June Picnic on June 27, 2010, as well as in future issues of the Newsletter. Peace. ❖

Contact Information

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For volunteer opportunities or to donate towards the support of this Newsletter:
Claudia Meyer 630.440.9964 or st.michael.church@live.com

To place an announcement (birthday, marriage, anniversary) in this Newsletter:
Claudia Meyer 630.440.9964 or st.michael.church@live.com

To purchase ad space (business) in this Newsletter:
Christopher Meyer 630.853.6200 or st.michael.church@live.com

If you would like to help us save on envelopes/stamps, please sign up at
st.michael.church@live.com
to receive this Newsletter and other church communication via email.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please fill out the following form so that we may update our records.

NAMES & BIRTHDAYS OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS

NAME	BIRTHDAY

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please mail this completed form to:

Claudia Meyer
0N750 West St.
Wheaton, IL 60187

You may also bring this form to church (to Fr. Pater or Claudia Meyer).