

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH THE MOST REVEREND J. MICHAEL MILLER,
CSB, THE VERY REVEREND GARY FRANKEN AND FR. RASTISLAV KRSK, SVD
AND THE PASTORAL AND FINANCE COUNCILS OF STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS
PARISH HELD ON JULY 11, 2018 AT 7:30 P.M.
JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE – 4885 SAINT JOHN PAUL II WAY**

Present: Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, Very Reverend Gary Franken, Fr. Rastislav Krsak, SVD
Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Pastoral and Finance Council Members:

PASTORAL: Rudolf Priskin, Jan Varga, Martina Prochazkova, Jana Jurkovicova, Ivan
Bebjak, Eleanore Matias, Maureen Foley,

FINANCE: Jan Oravec, Heather Charest

Minutes: Heather Charest

Opening Prayer: The meeting opened at 7:25 p.m. with prayer led by Archbishop Miller.

Discussion Points:

Update on Search for Parish Priest: Archbishop Miller stated that the Archdiocese of Vancouver has received correspondence from Bishop Hal'ko in Slovakia, and that at the present time, no priest is available to cover the recalling of Fr. Rastislav Krsak, SVD by his Religious Order. Archbishop Miller said that there is also no priest within the Archdiocese of Vancouver who speaks Slovak and who could assume pastoral duties until such time that a replacement can be found.

The Archbishop stated that an Administrator will be named (to oversee urgent spiritual and temporal matters) and that they are currently looking to appoint another priest to celebrate one Sunday Mass (time to be determined based on availability of replacement priest) and offer confession. It is anticipated that the Administrator and replacement ministry priest will be in place within the next month.

The Archbishop encouraged the Parish to self-organize and continue with Parish activities and ministries for the next year or so while the Archdiocese tries to secure a new pastor.

Fr. Rastislav mentioned that he has been working with both the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils to draw up an interim plan during this time of transition. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the meeting notes from the Joint Committee Meeting which took place at the Parish on June 25, 2018 and which were subsequently submitted for review to the Archdiocese could be discussed.

A copy of the Joint Parish Pastoral and Finance Council Meeting Notes (June 25, 2018) is attached to these Minutes for reference.

As the Joint Committee Meeting Notes were discussed, concerns and questions were raised and addressed. Most notably, these included:

- There is a need to protect the assets of the Parish. The Parish Leadership Team (Jan Oravec, Jan Varga, Eleanore Matias and Maureen Foley) will assume responsibility for the safety and security of the buildings but the Sacramental Registers should be removed from the Parish Rectory/Office and stored for safekeeping in the Archdiocesan Archives.

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A question as to whether or not the Parish could rent the Rectory was raised. The Archbishop strongly advised that is not a good idea to do so unless done with the assistance of a lawyer and only for a short fixed-term.

The issue was raised about the rental of other Parish buildings, i.e., the hall and church. The Archbishop said that it is a Parish decision and that it would depend on whether or not there is a volunteer who would be willing to oversee and manage any such arrangements. Fr. Gary Franken mentioned that there are several Catholic communities (Eritrean, Maronite and Syro-Malabar) who are looking for space to celebrate their liturgy. This could be another source of revenue as well as a way to keep the Parish active and widely used during this period of transition.

- The question of ownership of the church building(s) was addressed. All church property is owned by the “Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver” (Corporate Sole) under Canon Law, and not individual Parishes. Archival records show that in 1960, the old St. Michael’s church was purchased by Sts. Cyril and Methodius for \$45,000. There are no plans to sell the property.
- The money from the estate of Frank Lasciak’s will be deposited into the Parish’s Chancery Savings Account once all the paperwork has been finalized. The Archdiocesan Development Office is helping to facilitate this process on behalf of the Parish.

It was suggested that, because the Parish has the financial means, it would be wise, and in fact it was strongly suggested by the Archbishop, that a “General Parish Secretary” be hired to oversee the day-to-day administration of the Parish rather than relying on Parish volunteers.

- The Parish asked about financially supporting Slovak ministries in Slovakia as a way to show support and perhaps strengthen the ties and also encourage Bishops to consider sending a priest to the Parish. The Archbishop said it is a Parish decision, but he strongly cautioned that the Parish should be focusing on its own current parish needs, particularly its aging and failing infrastructure, as was stated in the Ausenco Report.
- Archbishop Miller was asked whether or not, visiting priests from Slovakia or those considering an overseas sabbatical could be approached to fill in at the Parish. He encouraged the Slovak community to reach out to family and friends and anyone who might know a priest who might be willing to come to Canada.

The Archbishop, said that he would write another letter to Bishop Hal’ko asking if, in the interim, he might know of priests in Slovakia who might be wanting to come to Canada for sabbatical or vacation and who would be interested in celebrating Mass at the Parish. A visiting priest only needs to be issued faculties, which is usually a simple process and does not require months of advance notice. The Archbishop stated that it is important that any formal arrangements for a Slovak priest must be made Bishop to Bishop and not between the Parish and a priest.

- **Closing Prayer:** The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m. with prayer and with Archbishop Miller thanking Fr. Rastislav and the Parish Councils for their time and hard work.