

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday,
December 9, 2003

Meeting opened at 7:03 pm by Tim Pilat, Chairperson. **Opening song:** *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, followed by recitation of our Mission Statement.

Scripture passage: *Luke 3: 1-6*, read by Mary Matestic. Council shared their reflection on preparing for the coming of our Lord in the midst of the commercialism. Also, in the midst of preparing to send items to fulfill the basic needs of children/families in Haiti for the medical mission in January. With enthusiasm we get involved in helping others in need and demonstrate the many ways that Christ is “breaking in” to today’s society.

Approval of minutes: November meeting minutes approved as amended.

Pastor’s report – Fr. Art Heinze

Advent season is going well. Pleased with the liturgies and with the number of people coming to church. Fr. Art will attend all Sunday liturgies as often as possible.

First Reconciliation took place with approx. 52 children on Dec. 9; the rest on Dec. 10.

Grief support group is going well.

Financial report: Finance meeting Dec. 16. October income was down. Festival money still not in the account; approx. \$95,000. We are up \$65,000 for the year. Pledge cards are coming in well.

Building fund appeal, part II: Contract has been signed with the James Company. The same process as before with phone calling.

Approx. 350 letters from Fr. Art will go out reminding people who are behind in their pledges. “If people pay what they pledged, we will be fine.” If not, we may need to borrow more money.

Building update: Painting has started. The office space will be ready by mid-February. Project is right on schedule, but the upstairs is a little behind. The single-pane glass will be changed to double pane or thermal pane. Bids are being taken. Current office space will be changed into classroom space after the parish offices move to the new area.

Discipleship Day dialogue – Tim Pilat

Presented by Fr. Tom & Sister Peg. 40 people present; divided into 5 groups. Different topics per group. Discussion of what we have + what is the vision = vehicle for change.

Goal setting discussed and a primary goal identified by each of the 5 groups.

Commissions (visionary groups/steering committees) were identified for a proposed administrative structure. It was suggested that a member of each commission be on the Parish Council. “The concept we are proposing is more of a lay person structure.” To be less dependent on one man (Pastor); to have something else in place to make our parish community better. A clear sense of parish identity and ownership; not dependent on one person (Pastor) is the vision.

Visioning document implementation – Tim Pilat

Tim distributed the *Dreams and Visions for Our Future – 2003* document and cover letter. It was agreed that it will take a lot of time to create change. No one has ownership of any public space in the parish/school. Examples are the gym and the gathering space. All voices need to be heard and

consensus has to be reached. “It takes respecting each other”, Tim added . Tim suggests that everyone read the Visioning document and replace the draft document in the blue folder. We need to talk about what steps we want to take. “Plant some seeds.”

Policy and procedures for the gathering space – Mary Matestic

The committee has not met since the last Council meeting. Next meeting is Dec. 10. Mary asked if Council has any comments on how the gathering space is working out/not working out. The policy needs to be clear for all parish committees.

Human Concerns/Outreach – Pam Lownik

St. Vincent DePaul meeting minutes were sent by mail with Council minutes. SVDP chapter meeting in March will be hosted by St. Mary. Food drive successful. Mary Kay Strand and her committee did a marvelous job with the Circle of Love.

13 people going on the medical mission to Haiti from Jan. 2-11. Brother Rene’ Mailloux will be at St. Mary’s on the first weekend in Lent. A plan for the ‘recuperation of rain water in Latiboliere’ has been identified. Cisterns, at a cost of \$5,605, will be built.

Revitalization report – Mary Matestic

January 4 is the date for the holiday concert performed by Deb & Jeff Honore’.

The first pulpit exchange is set for January 18 & 19. Twelve pastors from different denominations are participating in the ecumenical outreach and dialogue.

Donation of a water color was presented to St. Mary by Plunkett-Raysich Architects. Donation of a frame will also be made by them.. A montage of the church interior will also be given to the parish by Plunkett-Raysich Architects. What kinds of art we want in our church has to be discerned, as well as where to place the art on the walls.

There is a great need for monetary donations toward furniture and equipment for phase II of the building project.

School report – Theresa Illingworth

New uniform policy will take effect in January. Playground drive is doing well. One fourth of the goal has been reached. Kindergarten survey is going out to parents. The school children had the most successful food drive to date. School retention will be focus for the January Parish School Committee meeting.

Closing prayer: *The Lord’s Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 pm

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

Present:

Ray Moon
Paul Cesarz
Rev. Art Heinze
Pam Lownik
Tim Pilat
Tim Welch
Andrea Holmes

Clem Budny
Tom Grinker
Theresa Illingworth
Mary Matestic
John Roubik
Ray Backe
Lisa Ryan

Excused:

John Roubik
Amy Fritz
Shirley Klejsmit

Rev. Gary Nowicki
Tom Kessenich
Theresa Breunig