

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday,
March 9, 2004

Meeting opened at 7:03 pm by Tim Pilat, Chairperson. followed by recitation of St. Mary's Mission Statement. read by Paul Cesarz. The question, *What mountaintop experience do we need for transfiguration?*, led to Council's discussion of the scriptures. *How are we to prepare for our Lenten journey?*

Opening song: ' *What is This Place*'
Scripture passage: *Luke 9: 28b-36*

Welcome: Catherine Kearns, Revitalization committee
Steve Borkenhagen, Finance Committee

Approval of minutes: February meeting minutes approved as amended.

Review and approval of the budget - Steve Borkenhagen

Steve distributed a work sheet of the 2003 actual, 2004 budget, 2004 projected, & 2005 budget. In 2003, a special collection was held to decrease a deficit of \$111,961. \$62,425 was collected. There are positive trends this year which indicate a special collection may not be necessary. Steve reported that we should at least break even this year.

A significant improvement is in the school enrollment. From 377 in 2003 to 413 in 2004, as well as an increase in tuition and the after school program.

\$35,000 from the Endowment Fund also provides a positive impact.

Offertory collection is up approx. \$20,000 – a 20% increase.

The fiscal year of July 1 – June 30, 2005 budget will include an estimated increase of ten more school students. Fr. Art would like to see 500 students in the school by 2005.

School tuition will contribute 52% of the school budget. First time the school contribution's been greater than 50%. There will be a tuition increase of \$50/child next year.

The Endowment Fund is helping to keep the tuition down below that of area parishes. School parents are also asked to make a \$750 parish donation throughout the course of the year.

There is a 2% salary increase budgeted for all school and parish staff; the first increase in two years.

A part-time reading specialist and part-time librarian have been requested by the school Principal and are budgeted into the equation.

Annual maintenance costs are difficult to project in a building project year. It will take another year to determine actual costs. Heating/air conditioning bills will rise due to the additional space.

Additional internal and external (parking lot) lighting will raise the electrical needs.

If revenues stay flat, a special collection may be necessary to meet the 2004-05 expenses. If our revenues increase, a special collection will not be needed. There is not too much optimism that contributions will increase significantly, since we have the phase II building fund appeal starting.

The Administrative position, discussed in previous Council meetings, was dropped for budgetary reasons. If there should be additional monies, there is still an interest in creating this position.

Fr. Art moved, Clem Budny seconded, the motion to accept the 2004-05 budget of \$2,737,451.00 as presented. Motion passed unanimously. Steve Borkenhagen was thanked for his past work and applauded as the new Chair of the Finance Committee. Terry Briscoe was recognized and gratitude expressed for his leadership. Terry is the out-going Finance Committee Chair.

Pastor's report – Fr. Art Heinze

Lent started well. Good attendance on weekends and increased participation in weekly Mass. People have entered into the *Spirit of Lent*.

Religious Education is going well. Joanne Prei has asked that her contract not be renewed at the end of this year. Joanne has done a tremendous job and will be missed. A search has begun to replace her.

Four vehicles are going to the Pine Ridge Reservation. 5-6 more students are going this year.

The school principal is looking at fun courses to offer during the summer. Science, nature, computer science, and other courses would be offered at no cost to the parish.

Building project – Building will be completed at the end of the week. Remodeling of some rooms still has to be completed.

Two part-time instructors will be hired – librarian & reading specialist.

March open house – Mary Matestic & Catherine Kearn

March 13-14 are the dates of the open house for the new facility – gymnasium, classrooms, offices, and meeting rooms. Faculty and staff will be present to give a little history of the space.

Catherine reported on the format for people to pick up phase II building fund packets; attend an informational gathering in the cafeteria; have refreshments; and go on a tour.

Fr. Art wants people to see that all of the money did not go into the church, but also includes beautiful new office, meeting, and school space. Guides will assist people in getting around.

Adult Ministry report – Shirley Klejsmit

Young at Heart voted on the following donations:

\$2000	kitchen utensils and 6-burner range
2000	school scholarships
1000	Haiti project
200	gas grill for festival raffle
500	parish emergency relief fund

Shirley suggested honoring the Young at Heart Board of Directors at a designated Mass.

Fr. Art agreed with the idea.

New ministry: The 'Date Your Mate' program is being initiated by Sr. Josephe'. Ten date nights are set by the parish for once a month. Couples sign up for the series which forces them to establish at least one date night per month, thus deepening their relationship. Couples will start out at the parish, socialize and view a 15 minute video, take a few discussion questions, and go to a restaurant of their choice for a private date. Advertising will start after Easter.

Shirley also made a request from Sr. Josephe', asking for hosts to assist with the post Easter vigil reception on Holy Saturday night, April 10. Sign-up sheet was passed.

Liaison committee reports –

Home & School - Minutes are posted on the St. Mary web site.

Athletics- Due to timing of the meetings it is sometimes difficult to get a report together in such a short amount of time.

St. Vincent DePaul – Chapter meeting on March 28, hosted by St. Mary, with vespers, chapter meeting, and dinner. Archbishop Dolan will give the reflection at vespers.

Playground committee – March 15, from 4-9 pm, fundraiser at Organ Piper pizza. 100% of the profits will be donated to support the playground building fund. The Parish Council Handbook indicates that committee reports be made during the committee's active period. Tim Welch suggested that Parish Council have only 2 committee reports per month in the interest of time. Tim's suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Closing prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 pm

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

Present:

Clem Budny	Theresa Illingworth
Paul Cesarz	Tom Grinker
Rev. Art Heinze	Andrea Holmes
Pam Lownik	Mary Matestic
Tim Pilat	Theresa Breunig
Tim Welch	Tom Kessenich
Lisa Ryan	Shirley Klejsmit
Ray Backe	

Excused

John Roubik
Ray Moon
Amy Fritz
Rev. Gary Nowicki