

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday,
September 14, 2004

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson. **Opening song:** *Come and Praise the Lord*, followed by recitation of St. Mary's Mission Statement. **Scripture passage:** *Luke 16: 1-13* read by Tim Welch. The questions, *How can we be more clever in living and promoting our faith?* And *Do we use money for good or for evil?* led to Council's discussion / reflection of the scriptures.

Welcome guests: Mary Ann Ciardo and Jim Buescher .

Welcome to new Council member – Theresa Illingworth

Mary Campbell will assume the position of Councilor, replacing Shirley Klejsmit who resigned.

Document handout – Ray Moon /Tom Grinker

Documents and committee reports were distributed. Documents are to be placed in the red folders.

Approval of minutes: August meeting minutes approved as amended.

Pastor's report –Fr. Todd Budde for Fr. Art Heinze

This year's theme *Building the Kingdom* follows last year's theme *New Beginnings*. The hope is to include the activities of our *Kids for Christ* parish school theme and our outreach activities. The school year began on Sept. 1 with 424 students. 4 students above the 420 used for budget calculations.

Religious Ed. will begin with considerable time spent on the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the 2nd and 4th graders. Jim Beuscher, Director of Religious Education will speak at all liturgies over the September 18-19 weekend.

Archbishop Dolan will visit twice in October. He will celebrate the feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7. October 10th at 11 am he will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with over 100 young people. Over 40 students will be at the Tyme Out Center for retreat on Sept. 17-19.

Sr. Josephe started a new program, *Date Your Mate*, to help married couples deepen their relationship. Couples will meet once a month for a short video or presentation, then go on a date to their favorite restaurant. There are many couples interested.

Finance:As reported, we ended the fiscal year in the black with \$84,000 in the bank. \$70,000 will go toward replacing the last section of the school roof, costing \$140,000.

The Finance committee has requested the Archdiocese to audit our books. The process will begin on October 26. The books of all parish organizations will be audited with the hope of providing procedural suggestions to make our bookkeeping more efficient.

We are sending letters to parish members who have made no donation in the past year, asking them if they wish to remain members. We want to clean up our census and hopefully encourage greater participation in sharing our financial burden.

Youth report – Brian Lownik

Homeless awareness night was held on a very cold night, August 11. 19 youth and 4 college students participated. They viewed the movie “*Bowling for Columbine*”. The students were asked to spread the word about the youth group to other students. St. Vincent de Paul representative, Wayne Wilcox spoke to the group. There was much interest in his ideas about integrating youth into service. Items were collected for Sojourner Truth House, and delivered by Alyssa Mueller and her mother. The possibility of open gym and league basketball will be discussed at the next youth meeting.

Director of Children’s Ministry – Jim Beuscher

Jim introduced himself and reported that he has moved forward with several programs since arriving at St. Mary. He plans to develop a Children’s Ministry Advisory committee.

Jim offered to assist with the SWOT (explained below) development and clustering, stating that he has experience from parishes he formerly worked at.

YMCA – Mary Ann Ciardo

Mary Ann introduced herself as a parish member for over 18 years, and member service director at the S.W. YMCA. She explained that there is a sliding fee scale for members of the community who cannot afford the fees. Mary Ann invited Council to explore the many programs offered, and suggest programs to others who may benefit in the community. The YMCA works with community hospitals, rehab centers, and other agencies. Personal trainers and water exercise are just two of the programs with experts in rehab. Tours are given and brochures are available.

Parish Council Cluster report – Tim Welch

Five parishioners from St. Mary went on a tour of St. Martin of Tours’s new worship and gathering space. Dedication of the new church will take place on Oct. 2.

Members from St. Alphonsus, St. John the Evangelist, St. Martin of Tours, and St. Mary then met to discuss the possibility of sharing resources. Proposals that came from the meeting were:

1) Be attentive to the needs of the wider community, 2) Establish a “Cluster Council”, 3) Identify individual strengths and weaknesses, & 4) Visit each other’s Council meetings.

The following actions were decided: 1) Distribute Councilor’s names and assignments to each other, 2) Develop a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) chart for each parish, & 3) Meet again on Nov. 17th at St. Alphonsus.

After discussion by Council, it was suggested that an ad hoc committee of Council and Staff develop a SWOT chart. It was agreed that collaboration as a cluster is a lot of work and needs full participation of all 4 parishes. Networking and sharing needs to begin slowly and on a small level to develop a relationship.

Tim Welch will discuss the SWOT concept with Fr. Art. Paul Cesarz agreed to join the discussion.

Parish organization– Dan Paruzynski/Mary Matestic

Council looked at a chart of the proposed parish structure and a document with listings of the five Steering Commissions: I) Prayer and Worship, II) Human Concerns, III) Christian Formation (includes parish school), IV) Community Life, & V) Administration/Finance.

Councilors are asked to review the lists under each of the Steering Commissions and come to the October 12th Council meeting with critiques/suggestions.

Closing prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

Present:

Theresa Illingworth	Ray Backe
Mary Matestic	DawnOlander
Tom Grinker	Ray Moon
Fr. Todd Budde	Brian Lownik
Tom Kronschnabl	Paul Cesarz
Tim Welch	Tom Kessenich
Alyssa Mueller	Matt Panhans
Dan Paruzynski	Clem Budny
Patty Ceille	Mary Campbell

Excused

Fr. Art Heinze	John Roubik
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