

## St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

**Tuesday  
March 8, 2005**

**Meeting opened** at 7:00 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson. **Opening song:** *Tree of Life*, followed by recitation of St. Mary's Mission Statement. **Scripture passage:** *John 11:1-45*, read by Paul Cesarz. The questions: *What is a great moment of sadness in your life that moved you to tears? Do you have faith, as shown in the Gospel, that you will rise again?* led to reflection by Council.

**Approval of minutes:** February meeting minutes approved as amended.

### **Review of handouts – Ray Moon**

Documents and committee reports distributed. Documents are to be placed in the red binders. Ray Moon passed out the Parish Council Directory. The booklet will be made available to parish members.

The brochure, Vibrant Parishes in the New Millennium, was made available to Councilors. It has information on a gathering for diocesan and parish leaders on Saturday, April 9, from 8:30-3:30 pm at the Cousins Center.

Sign-up sheet was passed around for Councilors to volunteer after each Mass to answer questions and provide information to parishioners on nomination weekend, March 19 & 20.

### **Pastor's report – Fr. Art Heinze**

*Make Jesus' story our story* is this year's Lenten theme. Lent is going very well. Ann Garrison was thanked for presenting the Gospel at each Mass. Stations of the Cross are going very well with approx. 200 participants each week. Vespers is also going well. Penance services are next week... the culmination of our preparation.

2<sup>nd</sup> graders received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. First Communion will be received at Mass in the last weekend of April and the first weekend of May. It will be a celebration of the whole community of St. Mary.

Fr. Art thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. Ray Backe was thanked for his six years as Trustee. Ray is stepping down and Bob Stollenwerk accepted the position offered to him by Fr. Art.

Fr. Todd Budde will be interviewing for a replacement for the position of Director of Adult and Family Ministry. Sr. Josephine Marie will be leaving the position in June.

### **Prayer and Worship – Beverly Jurkowski**

The name has changed from Liturgy Committee to Prayer and Worship Commission. The Commission, 'on hold' during construction, needs to be re-vitalized now that all of the building projects have been completed. Beverly added, "The liturgies and prayer services here at St. Mary are outstanding."

The proposal to revitalize the Commission includes *educate, recognize, and improve*. Key points include meeting 3 times per year in an advisory capacity. Meetings would address pertinent issues that have cross-functional impact.

Membership would include all liturgical liaisons, clergy, Director of Prayer and Worship, Pastoral Associate, and at-large members, with a succession plan to cultivate new members. Ongoing formation would be retained as part of meeting agendas.

Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the proposal as written and presented.

#### **Budget review & approval – Steve Borkenhagen**

The 2004 actual operations ended with an \$84,896 surplus. \$70,000 was set aside for a new school roof. Current projection is that 2005 revenue may exceed budgeted amounts, which were conservative, puts us ahead by \$130,000. After expenses, we may be ahead approx. \$70,000 by June 30, 2005. The Finance Committee is confident that a special collection will not be needed this year, and the school roof can be replaced this summer.

For the 2006 budget (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006) – school, administrative, ministries, and outreach budgets have been increased. Parish salaries will increase 2% and the school payroll will increase an average of 3%. Health insurance is budgeted to increase 20%. Maintenance, grounds, and utilities costs are increased due to larger areas to be covered because of the increased size of the new buildings and grounds.

School tuition will be raised \$75.00; a 4.3% increase. Expense of hiring a parish administrator has been factored into the 2005-06 budget.

The Finance Committee is concerned about the aggressive ‘top line’ we need to meet in order to not end up with a deficit. We will need a 4.6% increase in donations, which is questionable with Fr. Art leaving. Historically, people have difficulty with change.

There were areas of uncertainty regarding accepting a budget which includes a parish administrator before a new pastor approves of the position. A motion was made to approve the proposed budget, which includes a parish administrator, subject to approval of the position by the new pastor, and of the expenses that will be incurred by the position. Motion accepted unanimously.

#### **Leadership Giving recognition program – Steve Borkenhagen**

An ad hoc committee is meeting to develop a program to recognize ‘giving’ to St. Mary. Ray Moon asked Steve to go back to the committee and ask them to prepare a proposal and presentation for the April parish council meeting.

#### **Discernment of new Councilors procedure – Theresa Illingworth**

A retreat will be planned for Councilors in the fall session.

Nomination weekend for Parish Council positions will take place on Palm Sunday weekend (3/19-3/20). Information on the discernment process and the time commitment for prospective councilors will be available. Two Councilors are needed to answer questions after each Mass. Sign-up done. Discernment meeting scheduled for April 11 at 7 pm. Three Councilors are needed to help respond to questions by nominees.

#### **Youth ministry - Brian Lownik**

Meeting at the Cathedral provided a learning experience about the homeless. Plans were finalized for the sodding project. Sod will cost \$500. A fasting day is being planned where parishioners will be asked to fast and donate the cash they would have spent on a meal.

24 students are going to the Indian reservation this year.

**Cluster meeting update – Tim Welch**

Tim Welch deferred a report at this time. A report will be available on line at a later date. Tim thanked Councilors who helped with the preparation and attended the cluster meeting hosted by St. Mary. St. John the Evangelist will host the May meeting.

**Transition team – Ray Moon**

A transition team will be formed to assist with Fr. Art's departure from St. Mary and the new pastor's arrival.

**Closing prayer:** *The Lord's Prayer*

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:35 pm

**Minutes submitted by:** Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

**Present:**

Theresa Illingworth	Tom Kessenich
Mary Matestic	Tom Kronschnabl
Tom Grinker	Ray Moon
Fr. Todd Budde	Patti Ceille
Paul Cesarz	Tim Welch
Dawn Olander	Mary Campbell
Dan Paruzynski	Clem Budny
John Roubik	Fr. Art Heinze
Brian Lownik	Matt Panhans

**Excused:**

Alyssa Mueller  
Ray Backe