

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
November 14, 2006**

The **meeting opened** at 7:04 pm by Dan Paruzynski, Chairperson.

Gathering hymn: *Table of Plenty*. **Scripture passage:** *Mark 13:24-32*, read by Joyce Roesler, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

Share/reflect: Councilors shared their reflections on the scripture passage.

Welcome guests: Bob Coleman & Todd Wallschlager, 2007 Festival Co-chairs. October **meeting minutes accepted** as written.

Youth ministry report - Tony Haning

*The next youth group meeting is tomorrow, November 15th. It is open to all public and private high school youth.

*The sleep-out in the church parking lot on October 27th was very successful with youth from many area schools participating. Gregg Hannon, who runs the SVDP meal program, was the guest speaker. Fr. Tony also stopped by.

*Students will be helping with the St. Vincent DePaul meal program on November 20th & December 18th. A Christmas party at the cathedral shelter is being planned for December 14th. Gifts will be distributed and games played.

*Confirmation sessions began with a parent-candidate meeting on November 12th.

*Sign-up is set for the CYM (Catholic Youth Ministry) basketball league. Parish based teams are for youth not participating on their high school teams. In the past two years St. Mary has fielded several boys and girls teams.

Pastor's report - Fr. Chuck Schramm

*Fr. Tony enjoyed his visit to St. Mary and was very touched by the reception he received from our parishioners.

*The Royal Affair was a great event and quite successful.

*Judy White is keeping track of weekend Mass attendance. Fr. Chuck commented that the liturgies are spirited and the people are invested in prayer here. 50% are 40 years old or younger. A healthy parish community, as St. Mary exhibits, is a 'blend of age groups'.

*The Vision Report for the Diocese has been distributed. A meeting is scheduled to get feedback on the report. A capital campaign to promote parochial education is in the planning stage.

*Mary Matestic reported: Adult education is the focus of Wendy Rappe' and Mary Matestic at this time, exposing the parish to diverse education. "We're trying to enhance the level of exposure to adult faith formation."

Royal Affair – Mary Campbell

A letter from the Royal Affair Committee was read to Councilors, thanking everyone for their support of the event which took place on November 11th. The Royal Affair is the major fundraiser for the St. Mary Parish and School Endowment Fund.

Parish Festival – Julie Schultz

The 2006, 25th anniversary, festival committee met to ‘wrap up’ the festival report. Financially, totals were lower because of the extreme heat. The net profit was under \$70,000 due to lower attendance.

Bob Coleman and Todd Wallschlager were introduced as 2007 festival co-chairs.

Dave Lownik, also co-chair, was unable to attend this evening.

Bob Coleman reported that there are five major Chair positions that need to be filled.

A grounds chairperson is the ‘key position’ to be filled.

Bob, Todd, & Dave will attend the Festival Trade Show at the Midwest Center in January. Dates for the 2007 festival need to be set: possibly July 13-14-15.

Rudy Zvers, 2006 festival co-chair, is going to continue with the building project of the festival storage garage. There were more concerns with the Village of Hales Corners relating to existing underground and overhead wiring. A new design will be presented to the Parish Council early in 2007, when the design and costs become available.

Finance & administrative services – Ron Gilles, Director of Administrative Services

Finance: Monthly envelopes showed a decline at the end of August of approximately \$7000. We were down \$19,000 in contributions at the end of September, compared to the same period last year. At the end of a four-month period, ending October 31, 2006 we are now \$25,000 below the same period last year. This is not a good trend. We will be watching expenditures closely and looking for explanations for the drop in parish contributions. Administrative staff had met, and all staff have been told to watch spending. Eight of nine parishes in the area are also below in contributions compared to the same time last year.

Pledge card: Pledge letters are going out soon. December 3rd is the return date for the pledge cards. There will be a follow-up with parishioners, through personal contact, to those who do not return their pledge card. Testimonials at all Masses this weekend will be given for Stewardship.

Guidebook: Information on the Guidebook Directory was provided by e-mail to all Councilors, so they would be prepared to make a decision at this meeting. A motion was made and seconded to use the Parish Guidebook for publishing a parish directory.

APC (Archdiocesan Pastoral Council) – Gregg Saksefski

The *2005-06 Implementation Commission Report* was provided to Councilors via e-mail prior to this Parish Council meeting. Gregg, who attended the APC meeting, provided an overview of the data and statistics included in the report.

There are three general directives for *all* districts for action this year in *all* parishes:

1. Grow in holiness: improving Sunday Mass attendance 2. Strengthen Catholic school education 3. Uphold our mission of charity and justice.

The Commission is asking The APC *district assemblies* (St. Mary is in District 16) to meet twice a year and give special attention to the following recommendations, setting reasonable goals (Fall), and measuring progress (Spring) on the following: 1. Grow in holiness 2. Strengthen parishes 3. Foster a culture of vocation 4. Strengthen Catholic education/Promote lifelong faith formation 5. Uphold our mission of justice and charity 6. Be wise stewards.

Statistics were provided for the sixteen parishes, which includes St. Mary; in District 16, Milwaukee County, southwest. There were district commendations in which St. Mary was specifically noted: “We recognize the compassion and companionship of the people at St. Mary’s, Hales Corners, for their share in the struggle for rights for immigrants.”

Overnight retreat – Mary Matestic

Mary reviewed the retreat schedule. There will be two speakers at the Parish Council retreat on November 17-18: Fr. Chuck on Friday evening and Fr. Mel on Saturday morning.

The document *Dreams and Visions for our Future 2003* was distributed. Councilors are asked to read the document and note which aspects of the document were met/not met. Discussion will take place at the retreat.

Closing prayer: *The Our Father* was prayed, followed by the *Sign of Peace*.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Minutes submitted by Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: December 12, 2006

Present

Fr. Todd Budde	Fr. Chuck Schramm
Pam Lownik	Patty Ceille
Clem Budny	Mary Campbell
Ron Gilles	Paul Stewart
Mary Matestic	Joyce Roesler
Gregg Saksefski	Lori Schoenkoenig
Chris Charapata	Dan Paruzynski
Tom Kronschnabl	Bob Stollenwerk
Tony Haning	Justin Panhans
Dawn Olander	Julie Schultz
Ron Gilles	

Excused

Jonathan Kozak