

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting**  
**April 10, 2007**

The **meeting opened** at 7:05 pm by Dan Paruzynski, Chairperson.

**Gathering hymn:** *Jesus is Risen*. **Scripture passage:** *John 20:19-31*, read by Julie Schultz, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

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

**Welcome guest:** Wes Gorder & Arnie Szaj, Young at Heart Board of Directors

March **meeting minutes approved** as written.

**Young at Heart report - Wes Gorder & Arnie Szaj**

This organization for older adults is comprised of approximately 500 parishioners and non-parishioners. Monthly trips and social events are planned by the Board of Directors, as well as lunches with speakers, presentations or entertainment. Support of projects and fund raisers take place throughout the year. Fundraising at the Sentry Food Store Brat House takes place on several weekends throughout the summer. The parish festival raffle booth is organized and run by Young at Heart volunteers. The biggest social event is the yearly Christmas luncheon. The year's events generate approximately \$10,000 which is disbursed to several parish organizations such as St. Vincent DePaul & Haiti Committee. Donations have been made to the Parish & School Endowment Fund and toward parish debt reduction. The parish school is supported through scholarships and financial support of projects & equipment.

Council voiced appreciation for such an active, vibrant & reliable, well run organization in our parish.

**Pastor's report - Fr. Chuck Schramm**

There have been many good and positive reports on St. Mary through recent news media coverage of the Bakala family and their immigration hearing. St. Mary has received much positive PR and the news reports have "put us on the map".

A request has been submitted for St. Mary to become a site for *Theology on Tap*. The program hasn't caught on as well around here as it has in the Chicago area. The program needs dynamic speakers to become viable. If the Archdiocese chooses St. Mary as a gathering site, we will get to select our own speakers.

The Archdiocesan capital campaign to support Catholic formation and education is in the organizational stage and Archbishop Dolan has hired people to coordinate this campaign. Fr. Chuck has been invited to meet with the fundraiser consultant from RSI regarding the capital campaign. Pastors from some parishes were invited to meet personally, while other parishes received a written survey.

**Finance & administrative services** – Ron Gilles, Director of Administrative Services  
Capital campaign: St. Mary hosted a symposium on March 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the 3-year capital campaign for the Archdiocese. Discussion left "a less than favorable impression". But, Ron feels that "it is a done deal". We'll be hearing more on this.

Finance: We were down \$20,000 at the end of January, and down \$35,000 at the end of February. Donations did not pick up in March, and we are down \$41,000 compared to March of last year. We are going ahead with a *special appeal* in May. There will be a bulletin announcement the weekend of April 28<sup>th</sup> and a request letter sent during the 2<sup>nd</sup>

week of May. We expect to be down \$75,000-\$80,000 for the year. Planned expenditures will still be necessary, but expense freezes will be made for the remainder of the year. Every expenditure will have to be approved.

361 households received a reminder letter that they still owe money pledged for the debt reduction. They are being asked to complete their donation pledge by the end of the year.

Approval of school expenditure: Ron Gilles, speaking for Jeanne Siegenthaler- school principal, made a request for approval of an expenditure for additional school lockers.

Two school fundraisers: Winter Carnival and Trivia Night, have raised \$5,000 & \$2,000 respectively. Jeanne is asking for approximately 50 full-size lockers for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at a cost slightly more than \$5,000. Money raised in the above mentioned fundraisers would be used to fund this school improvement project. A motion was made and accepted to approve the expenditure for full-size school lockers.

Stewardship Committee: Fr. Chuck is concerned about our financial deficit. Nobody seems to have any reasons for the financial shortfall. Thankfully our school is a viable financial resource to the parish, but our increasing *parish deficit* is of serious concern. After discussion, it was determined that we need an active, organized Stewardship Committee.

### **Dreams and Visions for our Future – Dan Paryzynski**

Dan plans to get more people involved and become more *mission driven*. He suggested that, for the next meeting, Councilors list the top five action steps that they would like to see accomplished. Welcoming, stewardship, communication, and youth are some of the key areas of concern drawn from the list of goals on the *2003 Dreams and Visions* parish document. Dan asked each Councilor to submit by e-mail a list of five goals/issues of importance. Dan will compile a list of the goals/issues submitted and the top five will be addressed at the next council meeting. Councilors will then be assigned to develop action steps to accomplishing their goal/issue.

### **Discernment process – Julie Schultz**

Chris Warner, Mary Campbell, Chris Charapata & Julie Schultz met. Approximately 40 parishioners were nominated. Chris Warner and Tim Pilat will facilitate the discernment with candidates at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:10 pm

**Minutes submitted by** Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary

**Next meeting:** May 10, 2007 \*\*\* note: date change \*\*\*

### **Present**

Fr. Todd Budde	Gregg Saksefski	Pam Lownik	Patty Ceille
Dan Paruzynski	Fr. Chuck Schramm	Clem Budny	Ron Gilles
Bob Stollenwerk	Julie Schultz	Joyce Roesler	

### **Excused**

Paul Stewart	Dawn Olander	Tony Haning	Justin Panhans
Jonathan Kozak	Mary Campbell	Chris Charapata	Mary Matestic
Tom Kronschnabl	Lorie Scheinkoenig		