

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting**  
**August 14, 2007**

The **meeting opened** at 7:02 pm by Mary Campbell, Chairperson.

**Gathering hymn:** *Hail Mary, Gentle Woman*. **Scripture passage:** *Luke 12:49-53*, read by Bob Landowski, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

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

Linda Jaeschke mentioned a prayer request from Rev. Wayne Rohde, Pastor of Jubilee Christian Family Church on Ryan Road, and Treasurer of the S.W. Interfaith Board of Directors. Nancy Rohde, his wife, was recently diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing extensive treatment.

**Welcome guests:** Jim Beuscher, Director of Child Ministry and  
Dave Megna, Athletics Committee

**Welcome Fr. Stephen:** Fr. Stephen Forrest was welcomed to the Parish Council. He introduced himself as a member of the Missionaries of St. Paul, in Racine. "They are my family." They do mission work in South America and Africa. Fr. Stephen is happy to be here at St. Mary.

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

Fr. Chuck met with the parish Council executive committee and is excited about the new Council leadership: "where we are at and where we are going".

During the Priests Wellness Day, they will explore what the different generations of priests have in common and build their respect for each other.

Report from Mary Matestic: Mary, Jim Beuscher, and Deb Honore` attended a conference at Cardinal Stritch. Cardinal Stritch University has 'picked up the slack' now that St. Francis Seminary is closed. A lay ministry program will be offered.

St. Mary's catechetical department will offer a 4 session series on *The Spirituality of Nonviolence* in October. A program for moms, *Mom's Faith Connection*, will be offered on the second and fourth Friday of the month starting September 14<sup>th</sup>. A weekend retreat for divorced persons, *Divorce Recovery Series: A Process of Growth*, is scheduled in October through the archdiocese. *The Seamless Garment: An Evening of Prayer* is being planned for October 28<sup>th</sup> in the church. Information on these, and other upcoming events will be provided in the church bulletin when the time comes.

Looking ahead, St. Mary is planning a *Spiritual Revival* for February 10-13. The theme is: 'Is Christ in our midst or not?'

Pam Lownik reported: Data was gathered from the listening sessions around *parish social ministry* (human concerns and social justice). The document is available to anyone interested in reading it.

*JustFaith*, a 30-week justice and Catholic social teaching course, will be starting again.

**Finance & administrative services-** Ron Gilles, Director of Administrative Services

**Finance:** The Parish financial books closed on June 30, 2007 for the fiscal year. The forecast was for 'breaking even' or even 'a little ahead' at the end of the fiscal year. We ended with a \$46,000 net income since the *special appeal* raised nearly \$80,000.

Reserve fund: St. Mary will start to build up a reserve fund to eventually replace the lower parking lot. The replacement was not planned into the 2007-08 parish budget. Testing of the sub-surface will need to be done. Replacement would take place next summer, 2008 – but over the two fiscal periods of 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Sound system: Last year the mixing board on the sound system was replaced, solving some of the church sound system problems. There are still unresolved issues with the sound system, so a specialist has been called in. \$2,500 was received from Young at Heart toward this study.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will be meeting to prepare the financial statement for fiscal 2006-07. The Mortgage Committee will need to meet again to address the shortfalls in donations and how to market our financial needs.

Labyrinth: Funds raised through the plan for *memorial bricks* to surround the labyrinth will be designated for debt reduction. Ron is waiting to hear from Mark Wimmer, whose family offered to produce informational brochures for parishioners.

Pictorial directory: The last pictorial directory was done in 2004-05 and the question was raised to whether it is time for another pictorial edition. If approved, volunteers would be needed to coordinate the project. It was moved & seconded to go ahead with the pictorial project. Discussion of investigating pictorial companies and comparing cost resulted in unanimous approval.

#### **Youth report – Liza Pincsak**

The Mission Trip group returned at the end of June. There is no report.

Youth group meetings are scheduled for September and October. New projects will be discussed at that time.

Mary Campbell added: The Parish Council bylaws say that there should be two youth representatives on the Parish Council. Nathan Ceille is interested and Mary asked for Council approval. A motion was made to talk to Nathan about his interest in becoming a youth rep prior to the September Council meeting. Filling a vacancy requires approval of the Parish Council.

#### **Liaison assignments – Mary Campbell**

Mary Campbell reviewed the Parish Council bylaws and distributed printed material titled, *Effective Council Members* and *Council Liaisons*.

Open positions need to be filled and Mary had a schematic of committees/groups that need a liaison. Councilors verbalized their interests and open positions were filled.

#### **Child ministry – Jim Beuscher**

Jim introduced himself as Director of Child Ministry for the past four years. He then distributed information and a list of the many programs and activities held throughout the year at St. Mary, and further explained children's ministry.

#### **New uniforms – Dave Megna, Athletics**

St. Mary Athletic Association is requesting to purchase 110 boys' basketball uniforms. The uniforms would be of better quality than previously purchased, for longer wear. A new logo has also been designed for each of the sports, and can be viewed on St. Mary's WEB site. A request for approval, on behalf of the Athletics Association, was made for 110 boys' basketball uniforms at a cost of \$55.00 each, for a total of \$6,000. Funding

will come from athletic fees, concessions, and fundraisers. The \$6,000 expenditure was approved by Council.

It was also noted that a completely new concession area was constructed and remodeled by parent volunteers for under \$5,000. Countertops, floor and ceiling were replaced.

**Retreat** – Julie Rafenstein-Schultz & Mary Matestic

A sign-up sheet was passed around and an overview of the agenda was given by Julie and Mary. Mary Matestic would also like to have input from Councilors regarding any needs or particular interests to make the retreat a meaningful experience.

**Welcoming Committee formation** – Mary Campbell & Fr. Chuck

Chris Charapata will Chair the Welcoming Committee and is looking for volunteers to form the committee. Fr. Chuck, Kelty Chelius, Jim Beuscher, Pam Lownik, and Mary Campbell will comprise the Welcoming Committee.

**Michael Duffy, ministry to Iraq veterans** – Mary Matestic

Report tabled at this time.

**ENGAGE! Day of Reflection** – Mary Matestic

Parish Staff have been discussing collaboration with Parish Council on a *day of reflection*. There is a move toward social justice and a group called ENGAGE! will present an educational program customized to our needs. Pam Lownik is working with the group and presenter. Mary Matestic is looking for input from Councilors.

**Top Five initiatives** – Mary Campbell

Discussion tabled at this time.

**Transportation issue** – Mary Campbell

Mary asked Joyce Roesler and Bob Landowski to explain a letter being drafted to Paul Cesarz, County Supervisor, District 9. The letter refers to the proposed elimination of bus routes to/from the Hales Corners area, leaving area residents with no form of public transportation. Council is being asked to read, and comment on the letter. Joyce and Bob will bring the letter to the September meeting and ask Councilors to support and sign it.

**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:** September 11, 2007

**Present**

Fr. Stephen Forrest

Fr. Chuck Schramm

Clem Budny

Kelty Chelius

Mary Campbell

Lorie Scheinkoenig

Gregg Saksefski

Liza Pincsak

Ron Gilles

Joyce Roesler

Bob Landowski

Julie Rafenstein-Schultz

Pam Lownik

Tim Welch

Chris Charapata

Mary Matestic

Tim Teske

**Excused**

Bob Stollenwerk

Paul Stewart

Gregg Saksefski