

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

Meeting opened at 7:05 pm by Tim Pilat, Chairperson. **Opening song:** *Sing a New Church*, followed by recitation of our Mission Statement.

Scripture passage: *Mark10: 17-30*, read by Tim Pilat. Fr. Art stated that anything you put first in your life ... fame, wealth, and material things... could be a block to finding God. Council shared their reflection. The willingness to *share your abundance* will bring you closer to God.

Approval of minutes: September minutes were approved with 2 minor corrections to be made by Tom Grinker before publishing the minutes on St. Mary's WEB site. Under Parish Assessment and Renewal: Decision to elaborate on the discussion/arrival at consensus that an opportunity to revisit the issue in the future was left open. Minutes approved as amended.

Pastor's report – Fr. Art Heinze

Father Art received a phone call from Archbishop Dolan, complimenting our parish on the meaningful church dedication service and celebration. Comments included: He was touched by the whole dedication; he was moved; and the whole experience was like a retreat for him. Fr. Art added that the dedication was a fitting conclusion to that segment of the building experience.

Dan O'Connor was given special recognition for what he accomplished despite two surgeries. The other choir directors, cantors, and music were outstanding. Lisa Ryan, Chris Borkenhagen, Barbara Redewald, and Pam Lownik were thanked for their assistance in various ways. All of the volunteers, architects, and laborers are what build *community*.

Sunday liturgies are good. Positive feedback from parishioners and guests.

Fr. Art is pleased with the new Principal and the way the school is going. There is room for more students.

Religious Ed is going well. Excitement in the program noted.

Athletic personnel are pleased with the new gym floor.

Some things need to be done in the church. We are waiting for materials on order.

Renovation of the space in the old church is coming along well. The target date of mid February is set for completion. The second floor has already been laid.

We need to capture the spirit of the moment with the revitalization of the parish. We can do this with good leadership in the Church. How do we preach to people and respond to people? How do we capture the spiritual needs of people and address them? Fr. Art wants to get past the point of looking at things from a brick and mortar perspective. We are getting past this. In terms of attendance at Mass, at the 9 am service, there were 980 people receiving Communion.

Fr. Bob Masse, Pastor at Holy Assumption, called to compliment Fr. Art after att

Stewardship Committee report:

There has been talk at various church committees about a new position of Business Administrator. Clem Budny gave a presentation. This has surfaced as a suggestion for a long period of time. The financial impact of a new position has been one of the concerns. A 2-page handout was distributed with the Council minutes, providing background info on the position.

Clem added that the job description has been prepared following the model provided by the Archdiocese. The purpose of hiring a Director of Administrative Services would be to free the Pastor of administrative duties. The Pastor would still have the final word relating to Parish issues. The result of the combined meeting of the Stewardship, Finance, and Blue Ribbon committees was a determination that the approx. salary of \$50,000 could not be afforded for the current budget or for the fiscal 2003-04 budget.

The job description for the DAS includes spiritual values and involves training by the Archdiocese. An amended draft will be available for the next Council meeting.

Tom Grinker proposed that the above named committees look into the possibility of the DAS for the 2004-05 fiscal year with the support of the Parish Council. Deferred till the next Council meeting pending review of the job description.

Gathering space, set-up policy – Pam Lownik

There is a sense in the community that people have been misinformed about the use of the gathering space. Pam is asking that Council have a vision for use of the space; meeting the needs of the community and various committees. There is a parish staff committee already formed to look at the issue of policy formation. Fr. Art proposed that the staff write a policy and present it to the Council.

Food pantry location – Pam Lownik

The previous location of the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry was not client sensitive for both privacy and anonymity. They have been informed of the new location for the food cupboard. Using the hallway between the old and new hallway space; and rooms for private consultations are welcomed in lieu of the current economy.

Christian Formation committee – Tim Pilat

In the process of forming a committee to oversee the child, youth, high school, and young adult age groups of our parish for policy formation and curriculum. The committee is looking for a chairperson with skills in policy formation.

Visioning document implementation – Tim Pilat

Draft document distributed. Tim would like and additions/corrections to be made so the *DRAFT* can be lifted from the document. The document will then be a '*living, breathing document for the future*'.

Council is responsible for reading the document prior to the Nov. meeting. It will be discussed and the *DRAFT* stamp will be lifted to make this an official document. Portions of the document will be implemented till the entire document has been implemented.

Closing prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 pm

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

Present:

Lisa Ryan	Clem Budny
Paul Cesarz	Tom Grinker
Rev. Art Heinze	Theresa Illingworth
Tom Kessenich	Shirley Klejsmit
Pam Lownik	Mary Matestic
Tim Pilat	John Roubik
Tim Welch	

Guest: Mike Jurkowski

Excused:

Ray Backe	Theresa Breunig
Amy Fritz	Andrea Holmes
Ray Moon	Rev. Gary Nowicki