

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday,
January 13, 2004

Meeting opened at 7:06 pm by Tim Pilat, Chairperson. **Guests welcomed:** Rick Wendell, St. Francis Seminarian; Tim Winters, Youth Ministry; Donna Moon, Haiti mission trip and Ray's wife of 30 years. **Opening song:** 'Go', followed by recitation of St. Mary's Mission Statement.

Scripture passage: *Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22*, read by Tom Kessenich... Gathering around the Baptismal font, Council shared their reflection. Fr. Art told a story with a message of: *what is most important for all of us is Baptism. It is the centerpiece of our identity.* He added, "We pass our Baptismal font in our new church as a constant reminder." Theresa Breunig responded that Fr. Dominic baptized a toddler last Sunday, saying that *he was privileged* to baptize this child. Paul Cesarz shared his story of being asked to say a few words before family and friends at a wedding. Not being related to everyone personally, he reminded them that they were all related through their Baptism. Council blessed each other with the baptismal font holy water before returning to the meeting room.

Approval of minutes: December meeting minutes approved as amended.

Pastor's report – Fr. Art Heinze The Christmas season went very well. Liturgies were excellent and well attended. There was a feeling that everyone was 'focused' and 'in the prayer'. 5,500 – 6,000 people attended. 250 cafeteria chairs were added to the seating. The 'prayer spirit' was very good. Approx. 400 people attended the holiday concert given by Debbie and Jeff Honore' on a snowy, football afternoon.

Upcoming dates: Lenten planning begins on January 14. Feb. 25 is Ash Wednesday. Easter Sunday is April 11.

Code of ethics for the diocese was discussed at the staff meeting. We want to be more conscious of what's going on. Everyone who works or volunteers at St. Mary's will receive the Code of Ethics. There will be a training session on sexual abuse prevention, given by Tim Winters. The estimate is that 400 people need to be trained. Everyone must have a background check. St. Mary has been doing background checks for the past 4-5 years already. There will be ongoing Internet in-services for staff. The key is to be observant and protect our children.

Sunday, January 25th is Eucharistic Day. Vespers begin at 4 pm with Fr. Andy Nelson as presider and homilist. A light supper concludes the evening. Catholic Schools Week will begin with a continental breakfast after Sunday liturgies. Communion preparation also begins on that day with the children being acknowledged at Mass.

Finance: We had a "good December". \$100,000 came in for the building fund. We have a \$5 million cap on what we can borrow from State Financial Bank. Letters were sent to people who were not 'up to date' with their pledges. Archdiocesan assessment this year is \$79,767.00. This is \$27,000 over the amount budgeted; more than the 4% projected.

Phase II building campaign kicked off today with a planning session. Lisa Ryan attended the meeting and reported to Council. Phone calling campaign will be done again, as 3 years ago.

Building update: Construction appears to be behind, especially the second floor. There have been delays in completing the stairway. Movers are set for Feb. 12 to move the offices from the school to the new space.

Human Concerns/Outreach Summary – Ray & Donna Moon

Donna, who had just returned from Haiti, gave a report on the mission trip. Donna, an R.N., went on her third medical mission to Haiti, along with ten other medical and support people. For two months prior to the trip, they packed donated medical supplies. Donna talked about her experience and said that, “Fr. Tony sends his love”. 175-200 people were seen each day, and some walked 4-5 hours to get to the clinic. “The people looked sicker. There is less food to buy and starvation is a real concern.” Fr. Art expressed appreciation to Donna, who replied, “It was a wonderful experience”.

Youth ministry report – Tim Winters

The Youth Council was re-energized this year. “Social, service, and spiritual are the three ‘S’s’.”

The youth worked on the SVDP food drive, which was very successful.

One downfall was the cancellation of the dance, scheduled for this Saturday, due to poor registration. The middle school has a great number of registrants for their dance.

A night of fasting is scheduled for April 3.

Mission trip has been expanded from 21 to 28 people.

An ongoing group of kids goes to St. Ben’s every month. The kids are committed to this outreach and their parents drive them to the location.

750 Confirmation candidates attended a gathering at St. Alphonsus. On Feb. 8th, St. Mary will host the Confirmation candidates from the area. Fr. Art will talk about the Eucharist. All Confirmation leaders will be required to attend a training session, or will not be able to participate. The message in that we are very concerned about our youth here at St. Mary.

Confirmation is set for October 10 with Archbishop Dolan. There are 100 candidates. April and September retreats are planned. Fr. Art added that if we get the point across about *community* we would have been successful with our youth. It will carry through in their relationships and into their marriages.

There are 7 candidates in the adult Confirmation program from St. Mary and 14 in all between St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Alphonsus.

School report – Tim Pilat for Theresa Illingworth

Week of January 25 is Catholic Schools Week.

Parish School Committee is working on preparation of a tri-fold brochure for the school.

4 new students came to St. Mary School for the second semester.

Revitalization/ exchange of ministers – Mary Matestic

Feb. 15 – Tom Tomaszek will give a concert for the parish.

April 30 – hand bell choir concert from WI Lutheran College.

January 25 – Eucharistic Day

Greendale and Greenfield ministers have had ongoing meetings. St. Mary’s has been invited to join. The pulpit exchange on January 18, 2004, has been one of the group’s activities and now St. Mary will join in on the exchange. Efforts to dialogue and bring us more unity are being made.

Gathering space policy had been approved by Council in December and will now be distributed in its final form. The policy will be in place for one year, then re-evaluated.

Further revitalization activities – Tim Pilat

Phase two of the campus improvement project includes \$4 million to add office and more school space is nearing completion. One thing to think about is how to continue the enthusiasm in support of this phase and to showplace it. We will have more area and meeting space. We need to utilize our investment to the fullest. We need to explore different ways of making our community aware. Tim suggested welcoming past alumni and include a fund raising event after the completion of the campus.

Closing prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 9:13 pm

The evening concluded with a tour of the new office space.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

Present:

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

Excused:

John Roubik	Rev. Gary Nowicki
Amy Fritz	Andrea Holmes
Ray Backe	