

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday,
December 14 , 2004

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson. **Opening song:** *Emmanuel Carol*, followed by recitation of St. Mary's Mission Statement. **Scripture passage:** *Matthew 1:18-24*, read by Dan Paruzynski. The questions: *What are the difficult choices that we need to make? Do you follow your dreams?* led to reflection by Council.

Guests welcomed

Patricia Laughlin – Hales Corners Library Director
Colette Cesarz - Hales Corners Library Trustee
Marv Weber - St. Mary's Coordinator for St. Ben's meal night

Approval of minutes: November meeting minutes approved as amended.

Library sharing report – Patricia Laughlin/Colette Cesarz

Here to present the community service mission and strategic plan of the Hales Corners Library. The Library Board put together a community service profile. First, they approached area grade schools. Secondly, they are reaching out to church communities. The library also provides employment in the Hales Corners community. They are asking what services we use and what services we would like to see at the Hales Corners Public Library. Council was provided with fifty surveys and asked to distribute them to Hales Corners residents within the parish community. Completed surveys are to be returned by the end of January.

Review of handouts – Ray Moon

Documents and committee reports were distributed. Documents are to be placed in the red binders. Revised liaison assignment list provided. Ray Moon passed around a sample of the Parish Council booklet that is being put together, complete with color pictures of Councilors. Ray is asking for comments and/or suggestions. The booklet will be made available to parish members.

Pastor's report –Fr. Art Heinze

The Advent blue books were very popular this year, and thus, we ran out. Last year we had a surplus of books which were shared with another parish. Eighty-five fourth graders celebrated First Reconciliation. The parents introduced their 4th grader, and had the opportunity to celebrate Reconciliation also. School students have had a variety of activities to celebrate the Christmas season. Students sang at the Hales Corners Care Center. The Kindergarteners will be telling the Christmas story. Communal Reconciliation and the school concert are on Wednesday, December 15th. Finance report – As noted in the church bulletin, regular contributions are up this year at \$551,000; an increase from \$542,000 last year to date. Offertory contributions this year to date are \$47,700; compared to \$44,700 last year. "Things are going better this year, and we are stable for now." We are not having trouble meeting the debt payments at this time. To date, \$219,000 has never been collected from the pledges received during the initial building fund campaign. It was agreed to no longer pursue those unpaid pledges.

Consultants of the Archdiocese meet Wednesday, December 15th. It will probably be the middle of January before Fr. Art hears anything about his request for an extension of his pastoral assignment at St. Mary.

Finance Commission report – Clem Budny

Agreed on a eight member commission – Pastor, 2 Trustees, and 5 at-large-members, selected by the Pastor. At-large-members will not serve longer than a three-year cycle. Finance Commission will formally meet 4x/year.

Created and approved formal by-laws. Agreed on guidelines for expenditures.

Reviewed the findings of the Archdiocesan financial review done in October. Accounting practices were found to be in accordance with the Archdiocesan standards and requirements, and accounting statements reflect the accurate financial status of St. Mary Parish.

Discussed strategies to recognize parishioner donations. Needs further examination of options.

Need to create a sub-committee to address future fund raising efforts for future financing.

How to address uncollected monies is an issue for further review. 58% of the school families have contributed the requested \$750 donation to the parish, with many families contributing more than the requested amount. The others will receive a letter encouraging their donation.

St. Ben's meal program – Marv Weber

Marv and Maggie Weber coordinate the St. Ben's meal program for St. Mary. Hot meals are provided at the St. Ben's meal site at 9th and State Street six days a week. Each night is sponsored by a different church, temple, or organization. St. Mary's provides food on the second Thursday of the month. There are about 100 people involved, with about 25 of the people going to the site to serve from 300 – 500 people per evening. "The rapport between staff, food servers, and clients is very heartwarming to witness", Marv related.

Fr. Art suggested that there are many older adults helping and it would be nice to see a new level of younger people getting involved. Students have gone with their parents. "It is the most effective way of handing down the faith and a wonderful opportunity."

Clustering update – Tim Welch

Fr. Art and Tim Welch attended the cluster meeting at St. Alphonsus on November 17th. It was identified that parish representatives have yet to be chosen for each parish. Ideas were shared for potential future collaboration. It was agreed that any movement to collaborate has to start small and be a deliberate process. Formation is ongoing. Each parish is asked to identify their top three needs for discussion at the next meeting. St. Mary will host that meeting on February 22, 2005.

Youth ministry report – Mary Matestic for Matt Panhans

There is a group of students wanting 'hands on' experiences to understand homelessness, poverty, and hunger. These students are now part of the St. Vincent de Paul youth group.

On December 13th, they went to The Mother Theresa Center at the Cathedral, and gave a Christmas party, complete with a mostaccioli dinner provided by That's Amore. The Center was also filled to capacity with 40 women and children. The students wrapped and distributed Christmas presents to the children, which were provided by the Circle of Love at St. Mary.

The students now want to raise funds to buy and lay sod in the gated courtyard at the Mother Theresa Center next Spring.

Parish Council Bylaws– Tom Grinker

Bylaws should be reviewed and revised every 3 – 5 years, according to the Archdiocesan guidelines. Tom Grinker used the template provided by the Archdiocese ‘on line’ and formatted it for St. Mary. Several corrections were made to the draft. Tom will make the corrections and provide the revised Bylaws for Council review.

Closing prayer: *The Lord’s Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 pm

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

Present:

Theresa Illingworth	Tom Kessenich
Mary Matestic	Tom Kronschnabl
Tom Grinker	Ray Moon
Fr. Todd Budde	Fr. Art Heinze
Paul Cesarz	Tim Welch
Ray Backe	Mary Campbell
Dan Paruzynski	Clem Budny

Excused:

Alyssa Mueller	Patty Ceille
Brian Lownik	Dawn Olander
Matt Panhans	John Roubik