

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday
September 13, 2005

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson. **Opening song:** *Amazing Grace*, followed by recitation of St. Mary's Mission Statement. **Scripture:** *Matthew 20:1-16a* read by Tim Welch. The question: *How does this reading apply to you 'from your point of view'?* led to reflection by Council; followed by prayerful petitions.

Approval of minutes: August meeting minutes approved with corrections to the attendance roster.

Welcome-

James Julien - Parishioner

Ron Gilles – Director of Administrative Services

Review of handouts – Ray Moon

Parish Council bulletin insert – A roster was developed by Gregg Saksefski, listing Councilors and the St. Mary web site. Corrections and suggestions were made.

Life Long Faith Formation – Ray Moon presented information on a three-day conference in Waukesha from October 13 – 15. Brochures are available to those interested.

Pastor's report – Fr. Chuck Schramm

A collaborative venture on marriage prep continues to grow with staffs meeting to put the program into a format. Other collaborative ventures may open up in the future.

'Whole parish catechesis' with everything centered on liturgy is the new approach. It is a movement; moving away from only classroom formation to a more family based format. "It is the trend of the future." An approach used by St. Mary will be to present a 'question of the week'. There is value to this in that more people will read the scriptures. Focus will be on getting materials to families with suggestions on how to approach the idea. The 'question of the week' will be printed in the bulletin and distributed to various groups for discussion. The whole idea is to get people to talk about their faith. This does not replace classroom instruction.

Review changes to the Bylaws and Constitution – Tom Grinker

Changes to the Council Bylaws and Constitution, as suggested by The Archdiocese of Milwaukee, were discussed briefly. Motion made to accept the changes as recommended. Discussion. Motion carried.

Youth ministry report - Liz LeGant

Confirmation will take place on October 16; Bishop Sklba to confirm 89 candidates. Confirmation retreat to take place at the TYME Out Center on September 16-18.

Middle school and high school Christian Formation classes will be starting soon.

The high school youth group is not active at this time. A high school youth group meeting is being planned for the end of September.

VIRTUS training, a sexual abuse awareness program, will take place this month. This program which promotes 'protecting God's children' is required for all volunteers and employees working with youth.

Parish Council Retreat – Ray Moon

The first Parish Council retreat was held at the Siena Center in Racine on September 9 and ended on Saturday, September 10, after lunch. The topic: *With Life there is Change... Now what do we do?* Fr. Andy Nelson gave the Friday evening presentation. Saturday morning Fr. Chuck shared his vision for St. Mary, opening up the session to questions and discussion. It was agreed that the Council retreat was an event well worth our participation. *Thank you to the planning committee!*

Just FAITH program /Parish Cluster report – Mary Matestic

Mary presented the plans for Social Justice Sunday on September 25th. This 'First Annual Collaborative Initiative' is entitled Seeds of Peace, Gardens of Hope. Each cluster parish will have a table display with 'satellite experiences and opportunities for growth'. Tom Thibodeau & Earl Madary are scheduled speakers.

St. Mary would like 10 – 16 people to start the *Just FAITH* program in 2006. Mary Matestic explained, "There is a solid movement toward social action at St. Mary. Many activities and programs take place here and many people are helping various causes. We will be changing the complexion and profile of the parish by getting other parishioners 'on board'."

Just FAITH is a 30 week adult formational program offering an opportunity to experience a spiritual journey into compassion. "It is a conversational experience", Mary added. *Just FAITH* is a process that recognizes the complexity of the call to compassion and provides resources and experiences, communicating the prophetic call to bring justice to a broken world.

Models of the Eucharist is a program being offered at St. Mary on October 2, 2005. Msgr. Kevin Irwin will lead us through a process and share his insights on how the Eucharist is a jewel in the crown of Catholicism, as the 'Year of the Eucharist' is coming to a close.

A collaboration of staffs and councils of the cluster parishes is planned for October 12. An 'evening of socializing and prayer' will take place at St. Martin of Tours. A light dinner will be served.

Financial update – Ron Gilles

A financial report of operations from 7-1-04 through 6-30-05 was distributed. A report is being compiled for Council regarding revenues vs. expenses. Revenues are down 2.7% for the month of August, 2005 compared to August, 2004.

Parishioners want to know about buildings and grounds updates. Quarterly reports will appear in the Sunday bulletins.

A question was raised as to how non-parishioners are covered by insurance during trips to Haiti. This is being looked into with St. Mary's insurance carrier. One plan is to have mission travelers sign a waiver prior to the trips to Haiti.

Guest parishioner – James Julien

Mr. Julien was given an opportunity to verbalize his concerns over the financial status of St. Mary. His concerns are in regard to the 1/3 of parishioners who give no financial support to the parish and the 1/3 who give very little. Clem Budny responded that non-contributing people on the parish roster have been contacted. Those who give very little were sent a letter in the past. Councilors empathized with Mr. Julien's frustration, stating that this issue is of concern and various approaches have been tried. The Finance Committee is always looking for effective ideas.

Finance Committee liaison report – Clem Budny

Building fund activity was addressed at the August 27th meeting. About \$3,650,000 has been collected; including donations of \$365,000 for furniture during the 2002 campaign. \$745,000 has not been collected thus far from the 2005 campaign. With mortgage rates going up, re-financing of the parish mortgage is an issue of immediate focus. Bonding is being investigated at this time. The Leadership Giving Recognition Program was addressed. 425 family names will be published. 275 families who contributed requested to remain anonymous. The booklet will be published soon. An additional \$10,000 of income was generated. No matter what we do with long term mortgaging, we are looking at the need for a future campaign.

Parish school update from the Principal – Jeanne Siegenthaler

School enrollment is at 437, highest since the '97-'98 school year. Enrollment has increased by 40 in the past 3 years. Red shirt day was explained. An exit survey and 8th grade graduate surveys have been initiated. The 'summer care' program, as well as the 'after school' program, has been very successful. The school cafeteria is now being scrubbed weekly with the assistance of the 4th and 6th graders to move chairs and tables. Bathrooms are being remodeled. Lower level bathrooms still need to be done. Staff changes and staff additions were mentioned, as well as other programs described.

Home & School liaison report – Dawn Olander

Dawn distributed both the Home & School board meeting report and committee reports summary from April 7, 2005. Tracy Borgardt is the new Home & School president. The 'We Care' programs at Pick 'n Save & Sentry; Entertainment Book sale; Box Tops for Education; and Market Day have all been quite successful programs sponsored by the Home & School association. Staff Appreciation week was a great success with the help of parent volunteers and donations.

Closing prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secy.

Present

Theresa Illingworth	Gregg Saksefski		
Mary Matestic	Julie Schultz	Dawn Olander	Dan Paruzynski
Tom Grinker	Ray Moon	Bob Stollenwerk	Tim Welch
Mary Campbell	Patti Ceille	Fr. Todd Budde	
Fr. Chuck Schramm	Liz LeGant	Paul Stewart	
		Clem Budny	

Excused

Tom Kronschnabl Brendt Zydwowicz