

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
August 8, 2006**

The **meeting opened** at 7:05 pm by Dan Paruzynski, Chairperson.

Preparation for receiving God's word – Mary Matestic

Mary Matestic gave an introduction and overview of the meeting preparation for receiving the word of God at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting. Parish Council members are assigned a month in which they will read the Bible passage, share their reflection of the scripture passage and lead the discussion.

Gathering hymn: *Rain Down.*

Scripture passage: *John 6:41-51*, read by Paul Stewart, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

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

June **meeting minutes accepted** as written.

Role of Parish Council members & liaison role – Dan Paruzynski

Liaison roles to parish committees and groups were discussed. Questions were asked and discussed, such as: Where does Parish Council actively need to have a role? How is communication within the parish handled? How is information exchanged? Several liaison positions need to be filled.

Youth ministry report - Jonathan Kozak

Jon introduced himself and was welcomed as youth representative on the Parish Council. Tony Haning had sent an e-mail report on youth activities to Dan Paruzynski, who read the report to the Council: The mission trip to South Dakota was a success. The high school youth group got together to discuss the mission trip as well as the future of the youth group.

Tony proposed the idea of a youth council to the group and the idea was well received. The mission of the council would be to plan events as a group and to be more organized. They believe that having a few students from each of the high schools to be responsible for disseminating information of upcoming events would lead to better participation and a more positive outcome. They will be meeting to continue this discussion on August 8th.

Review financial plan to reduce the debt – Ron Gilles

Steve Borkenhagen's report to the Parish Council in June was reviewed by Ron. Goals and strategies needed to be developed. A committee of nine members was formed. A basic marketing plan was developed, as well as a time line. Sub-committees will be formed in the future. The concept of community and worship space - not just bricks and mortar, will be the focus of the campaign. Defining *how* to market St. Mary's will be the challenge.

Finance & administrative services – Ron Gilles, Director of Administrative Services
Fundraising proposals:

Ron checked with the Archdiocese and looked into other parish models. The general procedure to follow is to get Parish Council approval at budget time for any fundraising proposals. A parish calendar with an overall picture of activities and fundraisers would be helpful.

Finance:

The fiscal year's financial report has been given to the Finance Committee. We ended the year with a negative cash flow – more money went out than came in. The designated amounts for the roof repairs were factored in. For the past three years, the roof repair amounts – less being paid out than budgeted – have kept this budget in the black for the final report.

Trees in the labyrinth area will be re-dug and moved to a better location so as not to obliterate the Virgin Mary statue.

The AT&T box on the 10 ft. easement has to be upgraded. AT&T has requested *another* 10 ft. easement to upgrade their fiber optics. They will pay St. Mary \$3,000 for use of the additional easement.

Pastor's report - Fr. Chuck Schramm

Everyone in the Milwaukee Archdiocese received the Catholic Herald, Vol. 137 No. 24, by mail. It contains discussions of the sex abuse issue. How the Milwaukee Archdiocese will be affected financially is not known at this time.

Providing an option in our parish cemetery for cremation remains is under consideration. Fr. Chuck brought up this idea for future discussion after a visit in Florida to a garden of remembrance.

Fr. Chuck read *Deep Change* by Robert Quinn and has recommended this fascinating book to the Parish Staff. It describes organizations who did not embrace *change* and as a result chose *slow death* as the other alternative.

Overnight & half-day retreats – Mary Matestic

Retreat dates are November 17-18 at the Siena Center. Mary Matestic gave an overview of the retreat format. Fr. Mel Michalski will speak on the topic of how we all share in the priesthood of Christ; a call extended to all of the baptized.

Plans for the half-day Parish Staff/Parish Council retreat have yet to be determined.

Parish Staff will be on retreat Thursday. The idea of a combined half-day retreat will be offered for discussion.

Books & CD's distributed to Councilors- Mary Matestic

The book, *Whole Community Catechesis* by Bill Huebsch was distributed to those who ordered the book. CD's of his presentation were distributed to those who requested it.

Closing prayer: *The Our Father* was prayed, followed by the *Sign of Peace*.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Minutes submitted by Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: September 12, 2006

Present

Fr. Todd Budde

Pam Lownik

Clem Budny

Ron Gilles

Mary Matestic

Gregg Saksefski

Julie Schultz

Bob Stollenwerk

Jonathan Kozak

Fr. Chuck Schramm

Patty Ceille

Mary Campbell

Paul Stewart

Joyce Roesler

Lori Schoenkoenig

Chris Charapata

Tom Kronschnabl

Dan Paruzynski

Excused

Tony Haning

Dawn Olander

Justin Panhans