

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
June 12, 2007

The **meeting opened** at 7:00 pm by Dan Paruzynski, Chairperson.

Gathering hymn: *God Has Chosen Me*. **Scripture passage:** *Luke 7:36-8:3*, read by Gregg Saksefski, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

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

Welcome new Councilors: Kelty Chelius, Bob Landowski, Tim Teske, Tim Welch,
& Liza Pincsak-Youth Rep

Welcome guest: Jeanne Siegenthaler, St. Mary Grade School Principal
Nicole Breunig & Anne Michaels, Altar Servers

May **meeting minutes approved** as amended.

Youth report – Tony Haning

- The Mission Trip group leaves June 23rd & returns June 29th. The group of teens and adults will stay in Batesland, SD, approx. 20 miles east of Pine Ridge.
- St. Mary will be a non-alcoholic host site for *Theology on Tap* on 4 consecutive Mondays in July, starting July 9th. This has been a collaborative effort between St. Mary, St. Martin of Tours, & St. Alphonsus. Archbishop Dolan is the first speaker. Age-specific mailings will be sent.
- The youth group is finalizing some service opportunities for short day trips for teens in early August.
- Liza Pincsak introduced herself as a Junior at Whitnall High School, looking forward to working with the Parish Council.
- Altar Servers report – Nicole Breunig & Anne Michaels are high school students who train the altar servers at St. Mary. They wrote an instructional book, specific to St. Mary, to be used in conjunction with the Serve God with Gladness book of general information. To be used as a reference, it gives information on specific duties and responsibilities of an altar server at St. Mary. Training took place in April and May for 18 new servers. Nicole and Anne are hoping to have two new trainers work with them to take on the training responsibility when they graduate from high school. Servers start in 5th grade. Only a few continue into their high school years.

Parish school update – Jeanne Siegenthaler

St. Mary Parish School received *Exemplary Recognition* from the Archdiocese. Jeanne showed Council the 2 minute power point presentation given to the Archdiocese and then proceeded to give a recap & highlights of the 2006-07 school year:

- Supported Regina Bakala with the granting of her citizenship.
- Met a goal to increase non-fiction writing across the curriculum, with 100% of students scoring at advanced or proficient levels in all areas of WI state testing.
- Reviewed & aligned the science & math curriculum with the Archdiocese Exit Expectations, based on WI Academic Standards.
- Added a computerized wireless lab with 12 portable laptops & color laser printer.
- Incorporated a computerized Lunch Program for family accounts.
- Created an alumni link on the website.

- Added the Scholastic Reading Counts program.
- Replaced ceilings in 2 classrooms, with 2-4 more to be replaced this summer.
- Enrollment for Fall is up 25% (470) compared to 5 years ago (377). Capacity is 490 students. There is a waiting list for 4K & 5K, as well as other grade levels.

Jeanne highlighted the many efforts to improve communication as a key component to their successful year. Many causes, projects, funds, collections, events, drives and foundations were also supported by the school children and parish families throughout the school year.

Basic tuition is \$1,975 or \$2,200 including fees. Approx. \$10-12,000 is given toward tuition assistance. *Hearing God's Call* is the theme for the 2007-08 school year.

Pastor's report - Fr. Chuck Schramm

- Our new Associate, Fr. Stephen Forrest has been around occasionally, meeting people. He will be coming to the Parish Staff/Council picnic on June 19th.
- Our computer system is capable of tracking volunteers, which is a 'plus'.
- A Policy for the Gathering Space DRAFT has been written to 'strike a balance' between collections & money sales, and the *sacredness* of the gathering space – especially during the six weeks of Lent.
- Fr. Todd's farewell will take place this weekend with a reception in the gathering space after all Masses.
- There is ongoing dialogue around planning a *Day of Reflection* with Parish Council and Parish Staff.
- A potential meeting with parents may take place in August, facilitated by Tim Winters and Fr. Chuck. Sharing information and soliciting ideas for youth activities would be the focus.
- Archbishop Dolan received results of the feasibility study and is enthused by the results. Meetings will take place to explain more fully and give more specific information on the Capital Campaign. There are several dates and sites, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) report – Gregg Saksefski

Gregg reported on the recent APC meeting:

- Mark Peters informed everyone to expect to be involved, in some way over the next three years, with the Capital Campaign.
- The Cousins Center sale has been postponed till May, 2008.
- Clem Budny reported: In July, the State Supreme Court will issue a ruling on the sex abuse cases that may impact the Diocese. If this ruling is adverse, it would reopen all sexual abuse cases. This could have a detrimental impact on the Capital Campaign and could also affect contributions on the local parish level.

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

Finance: In May, regular collections were ahead, compared to last year. The *Special Appeal* raised \$69,263. The forecast is to 'break even' or possibly be 'a little ahead' at the end of the fiscal year: June 30, 2007.

Labyrinth update: A plan for bricks to surround the labyrinth area will be designated *memorial bricks*. The Wimmer family would like to go ahead with this program and will produce the informational brochures for parishioners. Funds raised through the purchase

of memorial bricks would be designated for debt reduction. The Wimmers will be invited to make a presentation to the Parish Council.

Discernment process for Officers & liaison positions - Dan Paruzynski

Dan read the discernment process from our Parish Council Constitution, which he had confirmed with the Archdiocesan office. Descriptions of Council officer positions and duties were distributed and additionally explained by current officers.

Prayerful selection of new officers for 2007-08 began with opening prayer and Scripture, 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7. Eligible candidates were listed and discernment through open dialogue took place.

New Officers: Mary Campbell - Chairperson
Julie Rafenstein-Schultz - Co-Chairperson
Tim Welch - Secretary

Selection of new officers concluded with a closing prayer.

Dan distributed a list of open liaison positions and asked Councilors to make a prayerful decision as to which committee they would like to serve on.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm

Minutes submitted by Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary

Next meeting: August 14, 2007

Present

Fr. Todd Budde	Gregg Saksefski	Pam Lownik
Patty Ceille	Dan Paruzynski	Fr. Chuck Schramm
Clem Budny	Ron Gilles	Bob Stollenwerk
Kelty Chelius	Joyce Roesler	Mary Matestic
Mary Campbell	Chris Charapata	Tom Kronschnabl
Tony Haning	Paul Stewart	Lorie Scheinkoenig
Julie Rafenstein-Schultz	Bob Landowski	Tim Teske
Liza Pincsak	Tim Welch	

Excused

Dawn Olander
Jonathan Kozak
Justin Panhans