

**St. Margaret Mary Parish  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
April 1, 2003**

**Members Present:** Harry Dubnick   Joe Kash   Mark Oliphant  
Molly Fara   Cathy Kaduk   Fr. Bill O'Shea  
Matt Johnson   Jim Kacena   Fr. Danny Soriano

**Also Attending:** Mike Prus   Jeanne Mulroy   Bob Howe  
Martha Rose   Larry Lucas   Alex Bajusz

**Not Present:** Rick Burton   Dan Ptak   Tom Gavin  
Tom Walz   Sr. Madelyn Gould

**Opening Prayer:** Jim Kacena

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the March meeting were approved without changes.

**Parishioner Input**

Alex Bajusz spoke of his frustration that Tom Cordaro was identified in the Naperville Sun Extra as a staff member of SMM as he joined others from Pax Christi in a peaceful anti-war protest at the office of Congressman/Speaker of the House of Representatives Dennis Hastert. Tom was shown in the photo being carried out of the building. Alex stated that he has researched a website – [www.peacepledge.org](http://www.peacepledge.org) - and Tom is the contact person for Chicagoland's western suburbs regarding the "Iraq Pledge of Resistance" and includes SMM's main office phone number for further information/contact. In Tom's letter to the parishioners in last week's bulletin he stated that he takes 'great care not to identify' himself with the parish in public actions that are not directly connected with activities sponsored by the parish. This is a direct conflict with the use of the parish's phone number. Alex does not wish to continue contributing funds to this parish as long as Tom is employed here.

**Discussion Items**

**A. Capital Campaign Steering Committee Report**

Several meetings are scheduled for April and May, including an Open House at Calvary School and large-group meetings for families of SJA and SPP students.

**B. Pastoral Council Election Update**

Thirty-five nominations for candidates were received. Twelve of these nominated parishioners attended the orientation session with Fr. Bill, plus one Youth Representative candidate. Surprisingly, many of the people attending the orientation stated that they did not know what Pastoral Council members actually do. It again reminds us that we need to better communicate what Council's responsibilities and actions are, and how they impact the parish. Eleven of those who attended the orientation plan to continue the process and will meet with Sr. Madelyn for discernment. After this is completed, those who are still interested will complete a bio and photo for the bulletin distributed at least 2 weeks prior to the election which will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. It is wonderful to see the large number of potential candidates as well as the great cross-section of parishioners from various activity levels within the parish. The Election Committee (Harry and Matt) is commended for their ideas and hard work.

**C. SMMP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Anniversary Committee has begun meeting, led by Molly, and it was decided that the anniversary will be celebrated from the fall of 2004 through spring of 2005. There will be a series of activities, usually coordinated with the 'historic events' from the parish's beginnings. Possibilities include a celebration Mass, some kind of a connection with Naperville's sister city of Nitra, Slovakia, planting a tree on the property, creating a cookbook and having special

music written by Rick Hass. More committee members are still needed and Council members were asked to help solicit volunteers and share ideas.

**D. Time and Talent Sunday**

Joe is coordinating the table for Council on Time and Talent Sunday, and will solicit volunteers to 'man' the table after the masses. He is open to suggestions for items that will be displayed.

**E. Lay Leadership Development**

Mike presented the 'Report on the Study of Recommendation 2', which evolved from the focus group meetings held during the summer of 2002 with the Steering Committee and CRD (now Latz Bruni Partners). The following recommendations were made:

- a. The parish should *not* add a new staff position to address the needs stated in the study at this time.
- b. An outside consultant should be hired for no more than a year, to provide professional assistance to assess the situation within our parish. It is anticipated that they would suggest plans to raise the level of skills and awareness for volunteer support, recruitment and leadership formation, and we would then transfer these into action within our activities, enhancing what is already in place.
- c. Council is encouraged to facilitate the development of a new Welcoming Committee, being an expansion of the Newcomer Committee, in lieu of keeping this function within a Commission.
- d. Develop a Communications Committee through the Administration Commission with the assistance of the Pastoral Council, with the task of linking communications and finding new and better ways to share information to parishioners, as well as periodic surveys to gather information and opinions.

Mike requested Council and Commission members to review this report and further discuss it at next month's meeting. Any of these items, especially the consultant, can conceivably have 'alternative b'. With a brief discussion at this time, it is agreed that hiring a full-time employee is not prudent but hiring a consultant or conducting related workshops is a possibility. There was much interest in pursuing additional efforts to better communicate to parishioners and form a welcome committee. The fine efforts of Mike and other committee members are appreciated.

**F. Pastoral Council/Staff Day Planning**

The committee continues to make plans for this day, which will center on the theme of our parish's legacy. Mike Doody is scheduled to provide a history of our parish and the current status of the capital campaign. There will be a discussion, possibly led by Joe Ferrari, concerning volunteerism and recruitment, and another outside speaker may be hired for an additional topic such as team building for the afternoon.

**G. Regional School Subsidy**

With Capital Campaign meetings scheduled in the near future for parishioner parents of SPP and SJA students, many questions will be asked concerning the continuance of subsidies. There have been general comments of grandfathering these subsidies, but no details have been decided. Molly proposed that information be shared indicating that subsidies will continue during the next fiscal year, and that some type of grandfathering subsidy will be included although the specifics will be decided at a later date. She requests that a committee be formed in the near future to present recommendations to Council so a decision can be made.

Fr. Bill stated that by this December a decision will be made whether the regional school will open in 2004. In addition, the diocese is looking to discontinue *general* subsidies in the future, and instead work with 'needs-based' assistance. This information should be shared with families at this time since they need to make financial decisions.

It was agreed that parents of students attending SPP and SJA will be told that subsidies for the 2003-4 school year will continue, and that a Subsidy Committee will be formed. Tom Walz will lead this committee, joined by Matt, Harry, a member of the Education Commission and a parent from SPP school. Mike Prus and Chuck Marquis can provide financial data. This committee will make a recommendation to Council, any additional directives received from the diocese will be discussed and a decision will be reached no later than December of this year.

#### **H. Tom Cordaro's Photo in Local Newspaper During Anti-war Protest**

Many parishioners have been concerned with Tom's involvement with anti-war issues and his publicized connection as an employee of our parish. Although he has a right to protest the war, it *appears* that he has the sanction of our parish for these activities. The job description for the Justice & Outreach Minister was reviewed. Tom wrote a letter of explanation in last week's bulletin, knowing that some people were upset. Council members are mixed in their opinions of Tom's participation in this non-violent protest since the photo shown in the paper included his job title at our parish. Some felt that it presents bad PR for the parish, does not accurately portray the stance of the Vatican, and is an abuse of his title/position at the parish. Others felt that he is participating in activities supported by the Pope and Church leaders, and continuing with his position as Justice & Outreach Minister, working with peace and justice issues. There is a great concern that the peacepledge website lists the parish's phone number for the western suburb contact. Tom will be instructed to have the parish phone number removed from the website. In addition, it is hoped that he will continue to work with the newspapers to discontinue using SMM's name when he is not actively participating in an activity that is directly related to the parish. Fr. Bill's pastor's letter in this week's bulletin will speak on this issue in part.

#### **Commission Reports**

##### **Administration Commission**

The diocesan insurance company gave a presentation on defibrillators, focusing on liability issues. As of now the diocese does not approve the purchase of defibrillators due to liability risks, but it is anticipated that approval is forthcoming. The Commission will continue to discuss this with a possible purchase in the near future. Mike encourages all Commission members to discuss the Ministry Fair/Time and Talent Sunday, when it currently is held and if another time or frequency would be better. They will get back to Mike and the decision will be made by staff members and added to the calendar.

##### **Christian Education**

Sr. Elizabeth is currently in Rome attending a conference through her Community. Thank you letters, designed by Candy Rice's daughter, will be sent to all volunteers who work through the CEC.

##### **Christian Service**

Nine families are being serviced by the Bereavement group, and a special focus will be placed on child and teen losses. CCW is collecting cleaning supplies for Sharing Connections. A new client has been placed in the Daybreak program, and the apartment was cleaned before her arrival. The Men's Club will work on two or three homes for Christmas in April. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the Journey Program worked on a Peace and Justice project, focusing on additional funding for the homeless in Illinois. A postcard-signing campaign for the Millennium Challenge Fund to reduce world poverty will be conducted this month. The RE students are collecting food and paper products for the Loaves & Fishes as a Lenten project.

##### **Worship**

There is a concern that six vacancies will be open at the end of this term for a variety of reasons. Special efforts will be needed to fill these positions.

##### **Youth Representative**

No report

#### **Pastor's Comments**

The next few months include many activities at our church such as the celebration of First Communion, Confirmation, and weddings. Religious Education classes will end this month. Fr. Bill is proud of the willingness of this Council to discuss difficult topics in a healthy and productive manner, such as occurred with the discussion about Tom Cordaro.

#### **Final Whip Around**

Good that Council is willing to discuss difficult issues so we can be on 'same page'. It is important to attend to parishioners' needs as far as sharing information with them concerning issues of the school subsidies and their concerns about the photo in the newspaper. Thanks to Molly for leading the meeting well in Tom Gavin's absence.

Closing Prayer  
Meeting adjourned 10:30  
Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder