

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
May 6, 2003**

Members Present: Rick Burton Cathy Kaduk Dan Ptak
Harry Dubnick Jim Kacena Fr. Danny Soriano
Molly Fara Mark Oliphant Tom Walz
Joe Kash Fr. Bill O'Shea

Also Attending: Mike Prus Mike Bruni Chuck Marquis
Alex Bajusz Bill Hassett Sr. Madelyn Gould
Norb Crowe Maureen Sullivan Taylor

Not Present: Matt Johnson

Opening Prayer: Joe Kash

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April 1st meeting were approved without changes.

Parishioner Input

Alex Bajusz remains concerned about the 'political agenda of Tom Cordaro', whom he considers a left-winged activist. He questions what Tom's duties are at the parish, is concerned with the expenditure for Tom's salary, is not pleased with Fr. Bill's continued support with Tom's activities - even those outside of the parish, and is disappointed that Tom Gavin stepped down from Pastoral Council over this issue. Alex provided a copy of a letter that he wishes to have included in the parish bulletin stating his thoughts.

Maureen Sullivan Taylor voiced her opinion in support of the work that Tom has done over the past several years at our parish – with Peace and Justice venues such as homelessness, birthright, etc. She felt that when Tom was recently shown in the newspaper he was using his First Amendment rights, which he often does in a 'peaceful and prayerful' manner. In her opinion Tom speaks to the Christian mission of our parish when he is fulfilling his justice and outreach ministry.

Discussion Items

A. Capital Campaign Steering Committee Report

Mike Bruni was very pleased to report that commitments to the Capital Campaign continue. Several events have been scheduled for the next few weeks, including an Open House at the Calvary school on May 17th. It is hoped that all Council members will attend this event. There is a lot of excitement with the campaign so far, but it is important that the commitments continue.

B. Budget Proposal

Chuck Marquis and Bill Hassett presented the Budget Proposal for 2003-2004.

There is concern over the trend of increased disbursements and decreased receipts, but also with the expected annual operating costs of the expansion, and borrowing that might be needed for the new projects. An expected trend of 2% or more inflation is built into the model shown.

Chuck strongly recommends that Council address the issue now as well as in the future to ensure that we meet the needs of our parish while setting a direction to reduce deficits by either reducing spending or increasing receipts, or both. The direction should come from Council, with the advice of the Finance Committee, which will then be passed on to the Commissions and others who impact the budget.

Commission and staff members will be asked to look at their budgets again to see if expenses can be trimmed. In addition, we should address receipts. It is acknowledged that future expenditures with the capital campaign will be significant, and parishioners are being

asked to contribute capital funds as well as continue weekly contributions. The building addition and new school will allow people to see that the add-on value of our parish will be significantly and favorably increased. It is therefore hoped that contributions will increase as parishioners desire to continue financially supporting the parish. At this point the budget is in a comfortable enough position but the trends do show that things need to be addressed, or at least carefully watched.

Since Council will be changing members in the near future, Chuck and Bill will be asked to revisit in order to educate all members of the current situation of the budget and financial position of our parish. Chuck will notify all groups that impact the budget to see if they can make any changes to reduce their budget or look at increasing any receipts, and approval of the budget will be addressed at the June meeting.

C. Election Results

Harry announced that Dick Henke and Dick Backer are the elected Pastoral Council at-large members. All candidates were notified Monday morning of the election results.

D. Time and Talent Sunday

Joe needs volunteers from at-large members of Council to 'man' the table for this day. He will set up the table with appropriate handouts. It was determined that the 5:00 Masses will also be covered, although without the coffee and donuts.

E. Lay Leadership Development – Recommendation #2

The Commissions have discussed this recommendation, as presented to Council at the April meeting.

Members of the Worship Commission feel that hiring a full-time position for volunteerism and training would not be necessary, whereas a part-time position is a possibility. Another possibility is to have these tasks taken on by a current staff person. It would be beneficial to see what other churches are doing in this regard, and how successful their programs are.

Education felt that using a consultant would give us ideas, however follow-up work would be needed by a more permanent staff member, possibly someone in the seminary or another adult working on an intern basis.

Service is willing to consider a consultant who could also provide advice to increase the depth of their commission.

Administration felt that a consultant would be beneficial especially if the tasks could continue after a year is completed, but putting the salary into the budget for a full-time employee was not the best alternative.

Additional resources might be available through the diocese. There are also members of our parish who have training in the area of volunteerism or know people who are available to assist us, possibly in a low-cost manner. It does not seem appropriate to spend funds on a position for this, especially when our budget is a concern.

In addition, the Commissions agreed that additional communication throughout the parish and a welcoming committee should be encouraged. Another idea is to look at creative methods, such as splitting the Service Commission into two separate groups, possibly creating a new Commission to in part deal with Recommendation 2's issues.

It was decided that all three issues - volunteerism, welcoming committee, and communication should be tabled until next fall after the significant turnover in Council members. It is also important to include staff members in the discussion of these issues.

F. Plans for PC/Staff Day

Presentations during the morning will include parish historical data leading to the 25th anniversary and status of the capital campaign by Mike Doody, and a discussion on volunteerism by Joe Ferrari. The discussion for the afternoon will possibly include the parish's budget and financial status.

G. Appoint At-Large Member

As of April 12th, Tom Gavin has stepped down from Pastoral Council. The Constitution provides direction as to how to replace a new member to fill out the remaining term. The recommendation of the Nominating Committee was that Council consider all four of the remaining candidates (Adrian Jaworski, Jeanne Mulroy, Gary Skarr and Thomas Stahl), looking at their talents and potential contribution to the Council, and that Council should choose a new member from them. The decision was made to appoint Gary Skarr to replace Tom Gavin for the one year remaining in his term. (Gary accepted this nomination on May 7th.) He will be permitted to run for a full three-year term next May since he was appointed to this position.

H. Subsidy Committee

Tom continues to work on the formation of this committee, and is looking for suggestions of additional volunteers. It would be valuable to consider this as a discussion topic when the area's Pastoral Council presidents meet.

I. School Subsidy Letter

Molly drafted a letter which will be sent to all parents currently receiving school subsidies through our parish. Council approved the letter, which will be sent in the near future, signed by Molly and Fr. Bill.

Commission Reports

Administration Commission

No report

Christian Education

The education segment of our parish has been busy with First Communions, Confirmations, four new members welcomed at Easter Vigil, several new Inquirers beginning their classes, and the end of the year's religious education programs. The Commission plans to send specially prepared bookmarks (with a photo of our Easter Cross) to volunteers of the religious education programs with a letter thanking them for their efforts. The Commission needs more members.

Christian Service

Daybreak has significant problems with car repairs for their families. The Men's Club helped with renovations to one house in Aurora for Christmas In April. Sharing Parish sponsored 70 Easter food baskets, and St. Vincent de Paul is working on a 17-unit housing 'property swap' project through the diocese.

Worship

Of the 6 openings on the Commission, five have been filled so far.

Youth Representative

The Relay for Life was held at Benedictine University, and our teens collected \$5K of the \$50,000 that was raised for cancer patients. Confirmation was held for the sophomores, and the bishop had an excellent homily and interacted well with the teens. In sadness, it was reported that Bob and Carol Hanson's son died in a car accident yesterday along with his girlfriend.

Pastor's Comments

Thanks to everyone on Council. These have been busy times lately with communions and confirmation.

Final Whip Around

Good meeting – it was a long meeting but moved along smoothly. Appreciate Molly taking on the president's tasks. Appreciate presentation by members of Finance Committee. Need to work on issues that have been addressed from parishioner input tonight.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned 10:20

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder