

**St. Margaret Mary Parish  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
June 3, 2003**

**Members Present:** Dick Backer Molly Fara Cathy Kaduk Gary Skarr  
Rick Burton Dick Henke Mark Oliphant Fr. Danny Soriano  
Harry Dubnick Matt Johnson Fr. Bill O'Shea Tom Walz

**Also Attending:** Mike Prus Mike Bruni Sr. Madelyn Gould

**Not Present:** Dan Ptak Joe Kash Jim Kacena Sarah Eckstein

**Opening Prayer:** Molly Fara

**Greeting to New Members**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the May 6 meeting were approved without changes.

**Discussion Items**

**A. Capital Campaign Report**

Mike Bruni gave an update on the capital campaign. To date, there have been 125 solicitations. May was a conservative month for commitments and it is hoped that June will be much better since a new, very aggressive approach is being undertaken. Several events have been planned for the month of June beginning with Fr. Bill's announcement at all masses about the campaign and the need for funds. Other events scheduled during the next several months include testimonials shared each weekend, informational large-group and in-home events, Hospitality Sunday under a tent in the yard of the church, phone-a-thons, viewings of the video and bulletin updates. There will be a home delivery of 'packets' to every parishioner's home. September 28<sup>th</sup> will be "Announcement Sunday" at which time an update will be shared with everyone about the status of the campaign.

Although it is desired that more funds were committed at this point, the history of parishioner contribution at SMM is encouraging. The parish also has a history of showing appreciating for parishioner generosity.

Mike Prus presented a proposal for an additional expenditure for the video design, duplication and project management. Actually, the budget for the capital campaign has been approved by Council already, but the fact that this expenditure is over \$5,000, it was brought to Council.

Council approved the expenditure.

**B. Budget Proposal**

Changes were made to the budget that was presented by Chuck Marquis last month. Staff members and Commissions made a concerted effort to reduce expenses when possible, which resulted in a decrease in expenses. In the future, it would be beneficial to look at increasing revenue in areas of Christian Education.

Council approved the 2003-2004 budget.

**C. Pastoral Council/Staff Day - Committee Report**

The day will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:00 and the meeting will start at 8:30. It will be titled "Building Upon a Legacy". Besides the topics discussed last month for the morning sessions, "History of SMM and Capital Campaign Update" lead by Mike Doody and "Volunteerism at our Parish" lead by Joe Ferrari, the afternoon will focus on "Leadership and Selection of Pastoral Council Members", with Margo Stone as the presenter. The committee suggested that the group dinner take place on September 13<sup>th</sup> at an area restaurant with spouses in lieu of the family cookout on the day of the seminar.

Council appreciates the fine work done by this committee.

**D. Subsidy Committee**

Tom Walz has stepped down from this committee so Harry Dubnick, Matt Johnson and Gary Skarr will co-chair in his place. Other committee members have been selected and/or are being solicited. An invitation to join this committee will be given in the bulletin, and those applications will be reviewed.

The letter sent to Council from the Gallehughs was passed on to this committee.

**E. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Report**

Molly distributed a list of events proposed to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the parish, to take place during the year beginning on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Plans are still in the initial stages, and a new member from Council will need to be assigned to lead the committee since Molly will remain on the committee but is leaving Council. The dinner dance was a very positive social event at the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is encouraged to be repeated. The committee has done a great job of scheduling a variety of events, many times coinciding with things that are already scheduled as parish events. In addition, it would be beneficial to find a momento to share with parishioners so they receive something from the parish at the same time that they are being asked to contribute to the parish for the capital campaign. The committee has asked Council for a budget.

Council approved the plans brought forward by the committee and ask that they present a low/medium/high budget proposal for the scheduled events.

**F. Parishioner Input from May 6 Meeting**

Alex Bajusz and Maureen Sullivan Taylor spoke at the May meeting, on opposing sides, to their feelings of Tom Cordaro's activities. There was a point brought up by Alex at the April meeting that had to be resolved (removing SMM's office phone number from the website for peacepledge), but it was decided that no further action needs to be taken by Council at this time. However, it is important that we continue to be sensitive to the opinions of parishioners and take action when necessary.

**Commission Reports**

**Administration Commission**

The Commission agreed to Dick Backer's proposal to pursue new/improved lighting for the worship space, since it is a separate issue from the expansion project. New computers will be purchased for certain staff members. Funds will be taken from the General Account and placed in the Reserves and Replacement account. Expansion plans have been sent to City Hall and they are waiting for a concept meeting to occur soon.

**Christian Education**

Staff members will partake in training for child abuse issues, which will be passed onto volunteers (who also need federal background checks). The end of the year went smoothly with many celebrations, Confirmation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communions. Family Masses will continue next year on a monthly basis. Adult Education classes will begin in September with Jack Shea as one of the main presenters. The theme for the year is "What Does it Mean to be Catholic?" The theme for the next Parish Mission is "I Will Give You a New Heart" which will coincide with the capital campaign. Religious Education fees will likely increase next year but this will be further discussed. The Summer Mission (junior high) is in the final planning stage and there are many summer events planned for the teens.

**Christian Service**

No additional report.

**Worship**

All open positions have been filled and elections will be held this month.

**Youth Representative**

No report

### **Election of Officers**

Molly explained the election process. The election took place and the results are:

*President:* Matt Johnson

*Vice President:* Joe Kash

*Secretary:* Gary Skarr

### **Pastor's Comments**

Over 100 people came to Calvary School for the Regional School's Open House with favorable responses, and a desire to have more than PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade in the initial phase. Fr. Bill and others have received complimentary responses from people (mostly out-of-town) who attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Communions. Obviously Sr. Elizabeth and others who prepare this sacrament do a great job. The Capital Campaign is really heating up. In another parish that he was part of, he used to visit parishioners 'door do door', and it is much more enjoyable to have it as an office visit where people have a chance to turn it into a 'pastoral visit'. Beginning in September, there will be bulletin inserts for staff members on what they do, why they do it, etc.

### **Farewell to Members Who Are Leaving**

A very fond farewell was given to Tom, Molly, Rick and Cathy. Their efforts over the years are *greatly* appreciated. Those who are leaving appreciated having the opportunity to participate with a dynamic group, especially with the time-efficient and well-run meetings.

### **Final Whip Around**

The last three years have probably been the most eventful ones for Council since the beginning of the parish, and the meetings have been lead well. Rick has served under 5 presidents over his terms and has appreciated the time shared. Welcome to the new members and a fond farewell to those leaving. Matt is looking forward to leading Council during the new year. The new members look forward to being part of Council and will miss those who are leaving. It's wonderful to look over the past few years and think of the tremendous amount of work that those who are leaving have contributed. The Bible tells us that the "Spirit will give you new heart", and we look forward to the new heart that will be shared in the future for our parish. It's interesting to note that the new members are really not 'new', and will add an interesting flavor. This past year has been very rich, and looking forward to the new year. This has been a very rewarding experience, not at all mundane and it's with sweet sorrow that we say goodbye to the departing members as we also welcome the new members. The collective power of the Spirit working through all of us will show what we can achieve for the parish. Thanks to Molly as she again led a good meeting. Congratulations to Fr. Bill as he celebrates his 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a priest.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned 10:10 p.m.

**Thank You Notes Sent:** To Mike and Cheryl Gach for their many years of service to the parish.

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder