

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
February 3, 2004**

Members Present: Dick Backer Joe Kash Mike Prus Dick Henke
Harry Dubnick Jeanne Mulroy Gary Skarr Sr. Madelyn Gould
Sarah Eckstein Jim Kacena Mark Oliphant

Also Attending: Jim McSherry Norb Crowe

Not Present: Matt Johnson Chuck Marquis Fr. Bill O'Shea Fr. Danny Soriano

Opening Prayer: Dick Henke

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting were approved without changes.

Discussion Items

A. Regional School Update

Members of the school committee continue to meet with Holy Spirit personal and are encouraged by their level of interest for the school. Holy Spirit has held town hall meetings and sent mailings and it is hoped that significant pledges will be forthcoming. In addition, both SES and STA are continuing their capital campaign process including involvement with certain community programs for financial assistance and solicitation for volunteers to help with the campaign. Three names are being considered for the school and will be voted on in the near future: Naperville Catholic Academy, All Saints Catholic Academy or Jesus Catholic Academy. The principal will hopefully be chosen this month out of four final candidates. This person will be employed on a full-time basis beginning the summer of 2004.

B. Steering Committee

As of January 20th, Mike Doody has resigned as chairman of this committee. The remaining members have met to decide how to progress from this point forward, knowing that the change in leadership is significant and strategies need to be reconfigured and tasks reassigned. The group is waiting for the report that is due out on February 21st about sexual abuse within the Catholic Church, knowing that there will be issues that parishioners will want to discuss. The Parishioner to Parishioner Campaign will take place soon after that. Fr. Bill will speak at all masses on March 21st to give an update of the campaign. The Communications Plan will continue and it is hoped that the next two months will bring rejuvenation to the campaign.

C. Subsidy Committee Proposal

The committee presented its proposal to Council via email. Questions were asked and points clarified. It is acknowledged that this is a difficult issue, one that brings out many passions. The committee made difficult decisions, and although all members did not agree on each issue, they feel as a group that this is a quality proposal. It is one that will be discussed by Council members, decisions will be made, (both within the parish and with the other parishes involved with the school), and one that will be revised in subsequent years as needed.

Gary and Matt met with representatives at SSPP and SJA last month, who said they appreciate the up-front communication. They will support our parish with the decisions that are made and will not treat our parish's children as 'out-of-parish students' with regards to tuition pricing.

The committee proposes that there will be a commitment to provide some assistance to each student in our parish for Catholic education. The main support for Catholic school tuition should be provided to the students attending the regional school, in total after the

grandfathering stage is completed, and on a needs-based support which will be phased in over the next few years.

The committee was thanked for their efforts for this proposal. There will be a special Council meeting to discuss this issue on Monday February 16th at 7:00.

D. Election Updates

Jeanne has met with CWC and CEC, and plans to meet soon with CSC to discuss the proposed discernment/selection process for Council members. Mike has spoken to the Administration Commission. Fr. Ted will hold a parish-wide discussion on the process in March.

Dick Henke and Dick Backer are the committee members for this year's election which will be held the same as last year, where parishioners can either nominate themselves or another member of the parish. The process schedule was discussed with the election taking place on the weekend of May 1st and 2nd.

E. Stewardship Proposal

Mike sent a two-part proposal to Council members for their affirmation and endorsement. The first part was a 'broad and deep' description of Stewardship which includes its spiritual foundation and its aspects of volunteerism and financial contributions. The committee plans to include this write-up in the bulletin and assign staff members to give an extended announcement at all masses one weekend in the near future. The second part was a request to all commissions and groups within the parish to contribute to a ministry handbook which will be distributed to parishioners detailing their ministry and activities. In addition, the groups/commissions are asked to provide a one-page sheet to hand out at the Ministry Fairs. This information will be updated as needed.

Council affirmed the first part, and give full support to the second part. They encourage full participation from all groups within the parish for this handbook and handout.

Mike will plan to meet with as many groups and commissions within the parish as possible. He and other staff members were thanked for their fine work with this project and Council will assist in making it a worthwhile concern.

F. Parish Council Corner for Bulletin

No 'corner' was written for January. Dick Henke and Dick Backer will prepare one for February on the topic of the Pastoral Council election for this year.

G. Pastoral Council Workshop

Jim, Jeanne and Fr. Bill attended this workshop. They were told to look at two items on the agenda that could be enriched and/or completed. They decided to look into the Newcomers Welcoming issue and to make this a goal for the first quarter of 2005 to become an ongoing process. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

Commission Reports

Administration Commission

Dick Backer and Rick Burton presented the long-range financial picture, stating what could be affordable in phases for the addition to the church building. The Steering Committee is also looking at a phase-approach. Members of both groups will meet to discuss this. The diocese has determined that 75% of expected funds needed for a capital project must be on deposit, earning 5%. Loans will be given at 5 ½ %.

Christian Education

The last presentation held at our parish of Protecting God's Children will be on February 4th. Approximately 200 attended each of the sessions of the parish mission. Sr. Madelyn is training members of St. Raphael's for the CRHP program.

Christian Service

Nothing additional

Worship

There will be a Ministry Fair at the February 15th Hospitality Sunday for CWC’s ministries. They are planning to include a CWC Corner in the bulletin to ‘advertise’ the ministries. The Eucharistic Ministers were commissioned at all masses last month. Another commissioning service will be planned for next year, which will hopefully include members from all four commissions.

Youth Representative

No report

Final Whip Around

There was a question about the new Mel Gibson movie that will be coming out on Ash Wednesday. Has anyone heard how our parish might deal with issues that parishioners have about the controversies surrounding this movie? (No plans are made at this time.) The next sex abuse report will be coming out around the same time. Joe was complimented on his leadership for the meeting in Matt’s place and members of the Appreciation Dinner committee were complimented for their efforts. The work to be done and decisions to be made for the Council member selection and Subsidy issues will involve emotions, but it is expected that members of Council will work well together to make good decisions.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned 9:30

New/Continuing Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Dick H and Dick B	2/3/04	Write bulletin insert for “PC Corner” for February on topic of PC Election for this year	ASAP
Matt	10/7/03	Obtain a written commitment of SMM’s portion of the school loan through the diocese	Continuing
Mike	9/2/03	Follow up with diocese on status of defibrillator approval	Continuing
Harry	9/2/03	Form New Member Welcome Committee, reporting progress to Council	Continuing

Completed Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Jim & Jeanne	1/6/04	Provide input from Pastoral Council Workshop	2/3/04

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder

Hospitality Sunday

March 14 – Service

April 18 – Administration (Diocesan Appeal)

May 2 or 16 – Education (Time and Talent)

Refreshment and Prayers

March 2 – Jeanne

April 6 – Jim

May 4 – Joe

June 1 – Matt and Katrina