

**St. Margaret Mary Parish  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
May 4, 2004**

**Members Present:** Dick Backer                      Joe Kash                                      Mike Prus  
Harry Dubnick                      Chuck Marquis                      Gary Skarr  
Dick Henke                      Jeanne Mulroy                      Fr. Danny Soriano  
Matt Johnson                      Mark Oliphant                      Sr. Madelyn Gould  
Jim Kacena                      Fr. Bill O'Shea

**Also Attending:** Jim McSherry                      Bill Hassett  
Mary Ann Cronauer                      Don Cronauer

**Not Present:** Sarah Eckstein

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the April 6 meeting were approved without changes.

**Parishioner Input**

Mary Ann Cronauer discussed a website called LifeSite, which gives a list of 'gay friendly' parishes in the country. SMMP is one of the four parishes in Illinois on this list. Mary Ann wonders how SMMP has been included on this list - what were the criteria and qualifications? Harry will look into this and report to Council members and Mary Ann.

**Discussion Items**

**A. Capital Campaign Update**

57.2% of the anticipated \$4.5 million in pledges have been received, with 44% for parish expansion, 30% for the school, and 26% unrestricted. Parishioner-to-parishioner volunteer base is not as large as anticipated, but the process is continuing. Unsolicited pledges of \$80,000 have been received since the "State of the Parish" speech was given. It is hoped that some who previously declined making a pledge will reconsider. Displays in the lobby will be periodically updated.

**B. All Saints Catholic Academy Update**

The regional school name has been selected. The model is being 'tweaked', including decreasing the class size and improving the curriculum, to further improve the quality of the school. These changes will possibly necessitate an increase in tuition. Nominations for the school board are being taken. Pledges are coming in at the other parishes, but nothing of great significance. It is hoped that within the next two weeks better displays of the school will be available for the lobby.

**C. Pastoral Council Election Results and Discernment Proposals**

The Discernment Committee has decided to involve as many parishioners as possible with the change to a discernment process by writing articles for the bulletin and including it as a topic of discussion for the next Town Hall Meeting. Jeanne will contact Margo Stone to get information-sharing ideas.

2004 election winners were Josephine Lewis and Mary Runger. Each of the candidates were notified and thanked for their efforts. Dick Backer and Dick Henke were thanked for their work with the committee.

**D. Time and Talent Weekend (Ministry Fair)**

Dick Backer presented some of the handouts that will be presented at Council's table for the Ministry Fair. Mike and Dick will work together on these documents and Katrina will prepare a summary of the year for display. Council's portion of the ministry handbook will also be available.

### **E. Newcomer Committee**

Ann Schwartz and Jeanne will co-chair this project. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and they are expecting installation of their program by September. It will possibly include two major events per year as well as an ongoing one-on-one process, with a budget of \$700.

### **F. Town Hall Meeting**

After discussing a date in May for the Town Hall Meeting, it was decided that it would be better to schedule this meeting in the fall. It will possibly include a meal, using the same format as the Business Breakfasts, hoping to restructure the format to entice a larger attendance. Another option is to combine it with the new intergenerational program. A date will be set at the June meeting, with the agenda to be finalized at the PC/Staff Day.

### **G. Pastoral Council/Staff Day**

Because members of several groups and committees have voiced the opinion that there is a lack of unity within our parish, Council members wish to take a look at where the 'lack of energy' or apathy stems from and how we can initiate a sense of renewal. This will be the main topic of discussion at the PC/Staff Day, with parishioners John Blumberg and Al Gustafson monitoring.

General updates of current topics and a chance to share information with the new members will not take place on this Day but rather be postponed for the September meeting.

### **H. Parish Budget**

Bill Hassett thanked members of Council that met with the Finance Committee to discuss the budget. He then gave a general overview of the financial of the parish.

Of the total disbursements of \$1.7 million, approximately \$550,000 are discretionary and/or variable. The raises given to staff members last year was on average only 2%. The expenses over the past 3 years have increased approximately 2 ½% which is comparable to the inflation growth rate. However, collections have not similarly increased, especially during the current year. In addition, there is one less Sunday (53) for collections next year with 27 twice-monthly payroll payments. Therefore there is an anticipated deficit for fiscal year 2004-5 of \$45,000. The change in Total Fund Budget (with the capital campaign expenses included) will be a negative \$114,280.

Over the past several years, the budget vs. actual cash flow has shown a positive balance, meaning less money was actually spent and/or more collections were received than budgeted, and this *could* continue in the next fiscal year.

Generally speaking, those who are generous in donating on a regular basis have not decreased their donations as they contribute to the capital campaign. Total funds being received through collections and capital campaign payments are larger than were previously received in collections only.

It is not known if the deficit and decrease in collections is a short or a long term problem. If it is not just a one time 'blip', there may be a need to address the programs currently in place. But the Finance Committee asks Council - Is a deficit acceptable to this group? After discussion, it was decided to readdress this question after another month of budget review. All commissions and staff members will be asked to find ways to help by taking another look at their respective sections to see if expenses could be reduced, with the goal to bring it to a zero deficit. They will try to collect as much information on potential 'levers' (where significant adjustments can be made), with no 'sacred cow' expenditures. Reduction possibilities will be prioritized by 'easy, hard and hardest', and decisions will then be made. The Finance Committee will provide commissions with a format for this process.

It will be necessary to inform parishioners that our finances are tight to begin the mindset of thriftiness and the need to prepare for the debt that we will probably incur.

The Finance Committee will provide Council with an update next month.

### **I. Parish Council Corner**

Chuck will write the corner for the month of May concerning the budget and the difficulties currently being faced due to negative cash flows.

## **Commission Reports**

### **Administration**

Parking lot repair will be done during the summer.

### **Christian Education**

This Commission requests that they do not host next year's Time and Talent/Ministry Fair. This can be resolved next fall when the schedule is prepared.

### **Christian Service**

No meeting held since last PC meeting.

### **Christian Worship**

The Commission is writing it's own 'corner' for the bulletin and included its accomplishments and goals for the year.

### **Youth Representative**

No report

## **Final Whip Around**

Matt and Debbie are eagerly anticipating the adoption of their baby girl in the near future. This was a good meeting, with important discussions and decisions made. Harry will look into the LifeSite website issue.

Closing prayer and song

Meeting adjourned 10:50.

### **New/Continuing Action Items:**

<b>Person Assigned</b>	<b>Date of Origin</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Harry	5/4/04	Investigate LifeSite website	June
Dick B, Jeanne, Sr. Madelyn	3/2/04	Plan PC/Staff Day	Continuing
Katrina	5/4/04	Prepare PC Summary for Ministry Fair	ASAP

### **Completed Action Items:**

<b>Person Assigned</b>	<b>Date of Origin</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Dick B	3/2/04	Coordinate Time and Talent table	May
Mark	9/2/03	Form New Member Welcome Committee, with Harry, Dick B. and Jeanne, reporting progress to Council	Continuing
Finance Committee	4/6/04	Schedule meeting that Council members can attend to discuss the budget	ASAP
Matt	4/6/04	Format concept of Town Hall Meeting	ASAP
Gary	4/6/04	Write PC Corner for April – Subsidy	ASAP

### **Hospitality Sunday**

May 16 – Time and Talent/Ministry Fair – Education all masses Sunday, Administration Saturday night

### **Refreshment and Prayers**

June 1 – Matt and Katrina

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder