

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
June 1, 2004**

Members Present: Dick Backer Joe Kash Sarah Eckstein
Harry Dubnick Mike Prus Fr. Danny Soriano
Dick Henke Jeanne Mulroy Mike Pettinger
Matt Johnson Mark Oliphant Josephine Lewis
Jim Kacena Fr. Bill O'Shea Mary Runger
Sr. Madelyn Gould Chuck Marquis

Also Attending: Alex Bajusz Bill Hassett

Not Present: Lane Epstein

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May 4 meeting were approved without changes.

Parishioner Input

Alex Bajusz spoke of his disappointment that Tom Cordoro continues to be employed at SMM.

Harry gave an update from last month's parishioner input. He contacted the website that listed SMMP as a gay-friendly parish and received no response. Dick Henke will share this with Mary Ann Cronauer. He also questions whether our parish is appropriately ministering to gays and lesbians. The matter will be readdressed in the fall.

Introduction of New Members and Explanation of Ground Rules for the June Meeting

Josephine Lewis, Mary Runger and Mike Pettinger were welcomed.

Discussion Items

A. Capital Campaign

There has been no significant change in capital contributions since last month. The Parishioner-to-Parishioner phase is continuing. Members of the Steering Committee sent a letter to Lanz Bruni stating their disappointment with the company's services provided to our parish.

B. All Saints Catholic Academy

The property closing for the school is Friday, June 4th. The other parishes are giving a power point presentation for the school, and Sandy Renehan will present the same at SMM in September.

C. Stewardship Committee

Members of the Stewardship Committee suggest that the status of the parish's finances is formally shared with parishioners, with Council taking the leadership role. They feel that this should be done in the fall, after the Parishioner-to-Parishioner phase has been completed and the new budget has been in place for a few months. The committee will continue to provide a general approach to Stewardship through the intergenerational program, Catechist Sunday, Town Hall Meeting and Appeal Sunday.

Council agreed that they should be the leadership tool for this task and will discuss it again in the fall.

Chuck wrote June's Parish Council Corner which clearly states that there is a financial shortfall, the budget was not able to be passed at the May meeting because it was not balanced, and that changes would be needed. It is hoped that this information will be read by many parishioners so that they are generally aware of the current situation.

D. Newcomers Committee

The committee continues to meet. They are developing an information packet that will be personally distributed to new members, including the Ministry Handbook and new magnets that

show mass times. [Fr. Bill suggests that mass times are sent to the area hotels since apparently many do not have this information.] The distribution of the packets will be followed up with a phone call. Ice Cream Socials will possibly be scheduled once a year. The capital campaign videos will be distributed, with the hope of having them returned, and remaining pictorial directories are available for distribution. The committee is also looking into a new, low cost, non-pictorial directory for distribution to all parishioners.

Ministers of the parish (greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, etc.) will be encouraged to greet people at the masses, to help newcomers feel welcomed.

E. Hymnal Fundraising

Worship Commission has decided to replace the multiple hymnals and songbooks currently used with one new hymnal. The cost of the hymnals (estimated at \$7,000) could be reduced if many are paid for by parishioners as memorials. In addition, the old hymnals could be sold for \$5 each.

Council was receptive to this idea, especially since it was used to purchase the first set of hymnals as well as the crystal that was recently purchased, but would like more specifics before giving full approval. This will be discussed when the expense of the hymnals is brought to Council for approval.

F. Election Process

The committee wishes to provide more opportunities for parishioner input before presenting a change to the election process to Council for approval. Therefore, the discernment process will be discussed at the Town Hall Meeting in September and the committee will give their recommendation at the October meeting.

G. Time and Talent Sunday/Ministry Fair Review

It was noted that not many parishioners visited Council's table during the Ministry Fair, but it is important that Council is represented each year. The Fair had a positive atmosphere throughout the weekend, and the Commissions have received names of parishioners who indicated their interest and/or participation in their groups for followup.

Praise and thanks were given to Mike Prus and Mary Straub for the tremendous amount of work they provided for the Ministry Handbook. It is considered to be a 'real gem'. Katrina will send a thank you note to Mary. Praise was also given to Dick Backer for the fine job he did speaking at the masses on Time and Talent Sunday.

G. Town Hall Meeting

This meeting is scheduled for September 30th. Dick Backer will coordinate the meal that will precede the meeting.

H. Parish Budget

Bill Hassett gave a general update. Each of the groups and commissions have looked at their budgets again and approximately two dozen items have been discussed for revisions. The tuition subsidy needed to be increased and the intergenerational program needed to be added. Conversely, a substantial amount of cuts were made, most significantly in religious education programs and maintenance. For the most part, they are temporary reductions - ones that will be placed back into the budget in the future but are held off at this time because of the financial difficulties.

Even with these reductions, the budget still is not in balance. There was a discussion of whether it should be approved as is or if further reductions should be forced. Chuck proposed that the budget is approved with a deficit, to be re-addressed in September. It would be the task of Council to monitor the finances with the Finance Committee, hoping that funds are 'found' that provides a balanced budget by fall. An Overview column will be added to the budget, with the knowledge that either funds will be available or additional reductions will be necessary.

Approval was given to Chuck's proposal and the budget was approved with those conditions.

Each of the commissions was thanked for their efforts to reduce the budget. The Appreciation Dinners and Charitable Contributions were discussed as areas that may be considered for reductions in the future if it is deemed necessary.

An additional \$35,000 was requested for the capital campaign process. This is an accounting process, since originally Council approved \$750,000 to be committed for the expansion and school, and approximately \$500,000 has been spent to date. (A review was necessary before the last \$250,000 was spent.) It was decided that only \$15,000 will be approved for transfer to the capital campaign funding at this time.

Bill, Chuck and Mike were thanked for their hard work on the budget. They shared their feelings that our difficult financial situation may continue in the future, and we need to ensure that we lay this groundwork now, to begin the process of cost effective ways of spending money at our parish.

I. Parish Council Position Election

The following members were elected as officers of Council:

Matt Johnson as President

Harry Dubnick as Vice President

Josephine Lewis as Secretary

J. Goodbyes to PC Members

Jim, Joe, Gary and Sarah have served Council well and will be missed. Each gave their time and talents in special ways and we wish them well.

Commission Reports

Administration

Bids are being solicited for repair to the parking lots. The Repair and Replacement Report is being reviewed. They thanked everyone involved with the Ministry Fair and ask that each group follows through with the responses from parishioners.

Christian Education

They are looking for new members, including a parent that will be part of the new school. They request that CEC does not host the Ministry Fair each year. Vacation Bible School and the Generations of Faith programs are going very well. The Catholic School Tuition Scholarship Committee continues to meet. Schedules of parish council workshops are available for next year.

Christian Service

Brian Reilly is the new Men's Club president. Daybreak accepted a new family.

Christian Worship

Lane Epstein will replace Jim on Council and the Commission.

Youth Representative

No report.

Pastor's Report

Although word has spread to the contrary, Fr. Danny is not leaving this year.

Final Whip Around

Good meeting. It is nice to see how this group can work with differences of opinion as well as cooperation, making good yet difficult decisions, working for the common goal of what is best for our parish. Special prayers go to Lori Schroeder who suffered an aneurysm. Hope that everyone has a great summer. The new members look forward to a good year and we say goodbye to the members who are leaving. Prayers to the Johnsons as they travel to China for their daughter and to Jeanne for her medical needs.

Closing prayer

Meeting adjourned 11:15

New/Continuing Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Dick H.	6/1/04	Inform Mary Ann Cronauer of contact to website	ASAP (completed)
Katrina	6/1/04	Send thank you note to Mary Straub	ASAP (completed)

Completed Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
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

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder