

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
January 4, 2005**

Members Present	Fr. Bill O'Shea	Fr. Danny Soriano	Dick Henke
	Sr. Madelyn Gould	Josephine Lewis	Lane Epstein
	Harry Dubnick	Mike Pettinger	Dick Backer
	Chuck Marquis	Matt Johnson	Mark Oliphant
	Mary Runger	Mike Prus	Judy Thalmann

Also Attending Jim Luthman, Pat McAuliffe
Opening Prayer Lane Epstein

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the December 7 meeting were approved without changes.

Discussion Items

Parishioner Input

Matt spoke with Bob Howe (following through with last month's Parishioner Input). Bob has chosen to leave the Scholarship Committee due to his concerns with the funds that will need to be committed to the school. He worries that there will not be enough monies available for the parish expansion.

Capital Campaign Update

The calling campaign is currently running 300 calls each day that the group meets, with an average of three out of ten calls resulting in pledges. Total pledges to date are over \$2,850,000, from active, new and inactive members. Additional pledges are also coming from those who gave a one-time pledge and are now willing to commit additional funds. Committee members are also planning to contact parishioners who initially declined when they were contacted at the beginning of the campaign.

Council voiced their great appreciation and support to Jim Luthman for all of his tireless effort and commitment. His focus is helping to make the campaign successful. It is optimistically hoped that the campaign will continue on a positive note and we will reach at least \$4 million.

ASCA Update

The school's enrollment is now at 200, with expectations to reach 300 when it opens this fall. They are currently planning to open one class for each of 1st through 5th grade, with 2-3 classes for preschool and kindergarten.

Wish Group Updates

Group #1 - Committee has met during the month, with Josephine and Chuck as new members. Chuck Topping was invited but has declined. Other potential members will be invited.

There was a concern about the monies that might be needed for some of the proposals. There was also a concern about a wording change that was agreed to at the November Council meeting to the group's vision statement. Council wanted to include the parish with the efforts that were being pursued by the committee, but if a more micro approach is needed at this time (working only with Commissions and Council), it will still be a good start.

Group #2 - Al and John are assisting this group with goal writing. Sr. Madelyn requested Council to invite Al and John to the February Council meeting (for ½ hour or less) to discuss the goal setting process, hoping to ensure that the wishes will progress into goals and achievements. Council gave permission for this request.

Group #3 – The group will prepare an executive summary of the survey results to be included in the bulletin this month.

Appreciation Dinner

The Appreciation Dinner will be held at ASCA on January 15th, with music performed by SMMP choir members. Former commitments with the former band and caterer have been cancelled. The new caterer is working with the Mardi Gras theme, including casual table placements. Council, Commission and Quest members are asked to help decorate beforehand and clean up after the dinner. Council approved a donation option available for the band members who are working 'gratis'.

Pastoral Council Discernment Process

The committee (consisting of Dick, Dick, Mary and Josephine) has set up a timeline for the discernment process for this spring, closely following previous years' dates. They have yet to create an amendment to the Constitution for this change. Although Sr. Madelyn is getting an outside person for the processing meetings, she will continue to be involved on a limited basis.

Budget Discussion - Financial Review

Mike Prus presented comments (regarding financial concerns) from Council's December meeting to the Finance Committee. This committee plans to provide financial guidelines, goals, principles and procedures to Council concerning expenditures for the school, including the payment options outlined by the diocese. By May or June 2005, Council will need to finalize an annual budgeted contribution plan for the school account, which will begin in 2005/6. This will include the length of the debt and savings period, allocation of unrestricted monies from the campaign toward the school fund, as well as contributions from the parish savings and Repair & Replacement Reserve to the school fund.

He focused on a beginning for this large effort by reaching out to the Holy Spirit to work within our parish, and looking at the decisions and choices that need to be made as opportunities and challenges. It is important to look at the future as well as the past, and to spread the sacrifice with this financial crisis as evenly as possible. However, it is also important to be attentive to priorities, persons, and groups most affected by the proposed changes, looking at essentials and efficiencies. Another major factor is how to best communicate this information to parishioners, allowing them to understand the seriousness of our financial situation. It is hoped that the parish can make the scheduled payments without incurring debt.

Mike was given great support for his proposal.

Our parish will be assigned a new bishop in the next 18 months, a new pastor in 2-3 years, along with other changes. It is difficult to think that the wonderful things that our parish has been known for – a focus on education (including Adult formation), initiative programs, etc., might be cut back in order to pay the debt on the school. It is recommended that Commission members meet with the Finance Committee as the budget is formulated, since they will be part of the process if changes are needed.

The Financial Committee will be prepared to present its proposals and issues to Council in February.

Scholarship Committee Commission Assignment

This committee needs a Commission to supervise its functions. The individual financial decisions will be managed by an outside source, but coordination of the efforts needs to be monitored. After discussion, it was decided to have members of the Scholarship Committee and Education Commission discuss the issue and present their recommendation to Council.

New Associate Pastor Introduction

Fr. Danny Hessling will join our parish as of January 10th. To accommodate for our new priest, Fr. Danny Soriano kindly offered to move his office to the parsonage and will consolidate his personal belongings there to provide Fr. Danny Hessling with his own bedroom and bathroom. It is anticipated that Fr. Danny Soriano will then move to another parish in June.

Commission Reports

Administration - Efforts continue to install better lighting in the worship center.

Members of the commission will meet with a contractor this month. Dates have been set for those who wish to be trained for CPR, including use of the defibrillator. All greeters are encouraged to attend this training session.

Christian Education – The next Threads program is scheduled in February. Pictures from the November session will be shown in the church, along with other forms of encouragement for increased enrollment. The Women's CRHP and Retreat are being filled, and the Parish Mission is this month.

Christian Service – The St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive is scheduled for this weekend. Peer Ministry members will assist.

Christian Worship - \$3,000 has been contributed toward the cost of the new hymnals, including a \$200 donation by the Contemporary Choir. Mary Oliphant has recently included articles in the bulletin discussing the discouragement of intinction as a method of receiving communion out of respect for individuals who are gluten intolerant. The deacons can provide wheat-free hosts on request. The Commission requests copies of the surveys that relate to their group.

Youth Representative – Peer Ministers continue to work with other area parishes at Hopkins Park. 20 Peer Ministers are helping with the clothing drive.

Pastoral Comments

Jim Luthman has been such a great part of the tremendous effort with the Capital Campaign and deserves much credit for his tireless effort. Fr. Bill also thanks everyone on Council for their dedication to this process.

Final Whip Around

A thank you note will be sent to Jim Luthman for his work with the Capital Campaign. We have much to be grateful for at this parish. Josephine invites everyone to the 5:00 Saturday mass this weekend when she and Larry will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. She asks that those who attend bring a food item to contribute to the Food Pantry. Request for assistance with the Appreciation Dinner and Clothing Drive. Prayers for Mary Straub after a recent fall when she injured her elbow.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned 10:00.

New/Continuing Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Pastoral Council Discernment Committee	9/7/04	Prepare and submit changes to Constitution for changes in PC member selection.	2/1/05
Matt	9/7/04	Distribute yearly agenda. Reformat monthly agenda.	Continuing
Wish Group #2	1/4/05	Sr. Madelyn will invite Al and John for ½ hour goal-setting session at February Council meeting.	2/1/05
Wish Group #3	1/4/05	Prepare survey comments/results for bulletin.	2/1/05
Commission members	1/4/05	Meet with Finance Committee to discuss financial status and changes needed to deal with upcoming expenditures for school	2/1/05
Scholarship Committee and Education Commission	1/4/05	Discuss together with which commission the committee should be placed and present proposal to Council.	2/1/05

Completed Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Matt, Harry, Mary	10/3/04	Finalize plans for Appreciation Dinners	Continuing
Pastoral Council Discernment Committee (Dick H. and Dick B.)	9/7/04	Proposal to change to discernment process approved. Josephine and Mary are new members of group. Sr. Madelyn will select new facilitator.	Continuing
Wish Group #1	12/7/04	Invite Chuck Topping to become a committee member. Josephine will take on task of leader to group, and Chuck Marquis has also joined group.	Continuing

Refreshments and Prayer:

February 1 - Josephine
 March 1 – Dick Backer
 April 5 - Chuck
 May 3 - Mary
 June 7 – Matt/Katrina

Hospitality Sundays:

February 13 - Education
 March 13 - Service
 April 3 – Administration (Diocesan Appeal)
 May 22 - Worship
 June - None

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder