

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
Special Meeting - April 14, 2005**

Members Present:	Matt Johnson	Fr. Bill O'Shea	Mary Runger
	Harry Dubnick	Lane Epstein	Dick Backer
	Josephine Lewis	Mike Prus	Chuck Marquis
	Dick Henke	Mark Oliphant	Sr. Madelyn Gould
	Sr. Elizabeth Crotty		
Also Attending:	Bill Hassett	Paul Weineweth	
	Kevin Madden	Anne Lysaught	
Not Present:	Mike Pettinger	Judy Thalmann	
Opening Prayer:	Sr. Madelyn		

Discussion Items

A. Parish Budget 2005

Pastoral Council met a second time in April to discuss the budget. Each of the commission's and significant group's budget presentations were given at the April 5th meeting, with a focus on what cuts could be made to comply with the 15-20% reduction suggested by Council, and what hardships would incur if these cuts would be made.

This meeting was to discuss these recommendations and give guidance to the Finance Committee for their budgetary assessment for 2005-2006.

Our commitment to ASCA includes our scholarship fund to the students from our parish that will attend this school as well as the remaining students from our parish that will attend SSPP and SJA, and our portion (\$3,000,000) of the purchase of the school that is owed to the diocese.

There are sufficient funds available for the first year's scheduled payment allocation to the school. After that, we may need to look at options to take payments out of our savings or to borrow from the diocese. The diocese may allow us to renegotiate the repayment process. We need to meet the required payment to the diocese for the school until the debt is paid or we will incur additional costs.

The Finance Committee continues to look at a multitude of scenarios, depending on parish contributions, contributions to the capital campaign, transfer of parish savings, etc.

In addition, our parish is planning a building expansion. Parishioners expect us to support both the expansion as well as the school, since the capital campaign includes both as parishioners give their financial commitments.

The Finance Committee presented four school contribution scenarios to show how the bottom line would change depending on parish contributions, contributions applied to the school, amounts borrowed and a potential change in the repayment program.

Commission reductions available to the budget:

CEC has increased their tuition for religious education classes, Pre-K through high school, and reduced their expenditures. It needs to be stressed that the religious education groups at our parish have dealt with cuts and/or no-growth budget over the past several years. The counseling fund and teen programs are areas that hopefully will not be cut since they are working with minimal funds at this time and further reductions could be detrimental.

There was significant discussion concerning the fees paid to cantors and musicians, which is half (over \$40,000) of the CWC annual budget. This is possibly an area that expenditures can be reduced, while still maintaining the quality of music at our parish.

CSC is willing to cut back on their expenditures with the suggested guidelines from Council, except for the Newcomers group that is working with a very limited budget and is in its initial stages at this time.

\$40,000 of Charitable Contributions is basically 'fixed', which includes funds spent on PADS, Daybreak, St. Vincent de Paul, and our contributions to our sharing parish. Members of this group feel that a reduction of 12.6% would be feasible.

Scholarship funds were decreased \$45,000 because not as many have applied to ASCA as expected, some have not applied for financial assistance with the variable grant, and some have gone to other parishes. This significant decrease is feasible for this year's budget and it will be re-addressed in future years.

Members of the Administration Commission feel that they can work with the changes that were presented at the April 5th meeting.

B. Guidelines for New At-Large Pastoral Council Members

The discernment process will take place this month with the four remaining candidates. The committee members asked Council to provide general guidelines for the qualities that they feel would be most beneficial from new Council members at this time. These qualities include:

- Business background
- Ability to deal with budgetary calculations and decisions
- (Mixed thoughts about younger with family or older with family)
- Knowledge of either our parish or another parish that they were involved with
- Open mind to issues that will be addressed
- Management and leadership skills
- Open to call of Holy Spirit for guidance
- Diversity of background
- No single agenda
- Willing to bring in an opinion that may be controversial if beneficial
- Willing to bring additions to meetings in a concise, educated manner
- Ability to shape a forward agenda
- Ability to engage parishioners in overall parish commitment
- Provide a diversity to the group with a newness of ideas

C. Wish Group 1 Request of Speaker

As mentioned at the April 5th meeting, this group would like to invite Micki Lewis Slaber to next month's meeting to discuss 'Appreciative Inquiry Methodology', with the thought that she might be the speaker at the PC/Staff Day in August. It was agreed that she could speak to the group for 10-15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting.

D. Meeting with Choir Members

Members of the 9:00 Sunday choir met with Mike, Sr. Madelyn and Matt. They were displeased with the release of Rick Hass. This is a tenuous time for the group and any support that can be given to them will be beneficial. We are recruiting a new music director, and it is anticipated that the transition will bring a positive outcome.

E. Town Hall Meeting

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held on May 16th with a focus on our parish's financial situation. Details will be finalized at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:10
Closing Prayer