

**St. Margaret Mary Parish
Pastoral Council Minutes
June 7, 2005**

Members Present	Fr. Bill O'Shea Dick Henke Josephine Lewis Matt Kerr Chuck Marquis	Nickie Everett Mary Runger Gary Skarr Mark Oliphant Harry Dubnick	Lane Epstein Judy Thalmann Dick Backer Matt Johnson Rachel Ptak
Also Attending	John Blumberg	Jennifer Rosenbaum	
Not Present	Mike Prus Rick Weller Mike Pettinger	Sr. Madelyn Gould Fr. Dan Hessling	Paul Weinewuth Fr. Danny Soriano
Opening Prayer	Fr. Bill		

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the May meeting were approved without changes.

Discussion Items

Parish Council/Staff Days Update

John spoke about plans for this two-day session for Staff and Council members. He and Al have met with the Wish Groups and Staff members throughout the year. They will continue to help the Wish Groups move ahead with their goals as well as assist Council to work as a strategic, not only administrative group. They will coordinate four meetings during the summer and request that at least one Staff and PC member attend each meeting to collect data. On the Thursday evening of PC/Staff Days the goals, visions and strategies will be discussed, then Friday will be spent on strategically working on goals that are quantifiable, measurable and give accountability.

Wish Group #1

The group felt that they struggled in the beginning, mostly because they were focusing on the negatives of the parish's problems, rather than looking through a positive process such as appreciative inquiry. Josephine distributed their goals of introducing this methodology while also enlisting Council and Staff members to help form a new vision.

Wish Group #2

Fr. Bill spoke of the group's goals with a focus on measurability and accountability, and handouts from Sr. Madelyn were distributed.

Wish Group #3

Harry has prepared a document for the bulletin with results from the survey that was available at last year's Parish Picnic, through the bulletin, and via the website. 190 responses were received (some including a detailed response) and between Chuck and Harry statistical and narrative results of this survey have been prepared.

The bulletin document will remind parishioners that they can communicate to Council through the sources provided such as our email address.

Parish Council Goals

Matt and Mary have prepared lists of goals for Parish Council. Members are requested to review these and send feedback to Mary who will finalize the list.

Capital Campaign Update

At this time the campaign is has received pledges of over \$3,000,000 which is \$2,500,000 short of fully funding both projects. It is important that both projects are given full attention and progress is shared with parishioners.

Committee members are planning to present a quantifiable report of what will be taking place with the parish expansion by the time of the Parish Picnic. It is hoped and expected that once the 'shovel is put in the ground', more funds will be pledged.

It is very important that those who have donated restricted funds know that their restriction will be honored. Some donators are concerned that the school has moved forward yet planning for the building expansion has stagnated. In addition, 75% of the cost of the expansion must be deposited in the diocese account before work can begin. Members of the Capital Campaign will need to address these issues clearly in future bulletin announcements.

The original plans that were approved for the parish expansion will be altered due to a reduction in anticipated funds as well as a reduction of space needs. Once these new space needs are decided, the committee will meet again with the architect.

ASCA Update

Enrollment continues with over 300 students to date. STA and SES are concerned that their capital campaigns are struggling. Rising interest rates is another concern. The three schools are looking at alternative repayment plans including a longer payment process which will provide immediate relief but cost over \$1,000,000 in the long term, changing the 10-year payment program with larger payments in the earlier years into 15 years with a flatter payment schedule.

Our parish will need to make a decision on how to deal with our total capital campaign (both projects taking equal status), and how involved we will be with the school if their finances are not secure. Chuck will continue to work with Bill Hassett about these issues and information will be shared with the financial groups at STA and SES.

Budget Discussion

The budget was re-addressed, with special discussion concerning Youth Ministry programs and counseling through Adult Education. The Youth Ministry Mission has been funded now through sponsored 'shares', after a request from the teens to the parishioners. Sr. Madelyn can look for counseling funds through Charitable Contributions.

The budget, as proposed, was approved.

Letter of Appreciation to Choir

Mary presented a letter she drafted to 9:30 choir members. The letter was approved with the addition of the fact that a new music director has been hired.

Suggested Change to Appreciation Dinner Format

There is a concern that a majority of our catechists do not attend the Appreciation Dinner(s). Mary proposed a Family Fest, which would provide an

opportunity to show appreciation with this group as well as bring families together which has been a major desire of those surveyed.

This issue was tabled until September.

Fr. Danny's Farewell Celebration

Volunteers are needed for this celebration on June 12th. Josephine, Judy, Dick Henke and Lane will assist.

Issue of New Parishioners Looking for School Tuition

A concern was voiced that some families might be joining our parish knowing that they will receive school tuition assistance.

There is a policy in our parish not to take accountability of what funds we spend for tuition subsidy compared to what we receive in contributions from the same families. We continue to welcome new members into our parish with open arms as Christians.

Election of Council Members

The positions of President, Vice President and Secretary were voted on. The following were elected:

President - Mary

Vice President - Dick Henke

Secretary - Gary

Encouragement of Diocesan Programs

Josephine encouraged Council members to participate in the programs offered by the diocese and provided a handout for future sessions.

Commission Reports

Administration - The Webmaster position has been filled.

Christian Education - No report

Christian Service – Mark reminded Council that the Newcomers Committee is currently being housed under the Pastoral Council, rather than under the Service Commission to ensure that this important group does not lose energy and dissolve as it has in the past. This should be revisited in September to consider whether it should be moved back to CSC or remain at the Council level.

Christian Worship - They continue to look at the memorials for the hymnals and the plaques that will be placed inside.

Youth Representative - Over \$2,500 has been raised to ensure that 28 students will be able to attend the Youth Mission.

Parting Comments

Lane was very appreciative of learning the processes used on Council and the support he was given as a member. Mark has been amazed at seeing the difference between what is sometimes said by parishioners and what he knows is real by being on Council. Harry knew that sometimes he did not agree with others but yet appreciates how the differences eventually brought about agreement. Matt appreciates the input that has been shared and the issues that have been decided upon.

Pastor's Comments

Great kudos to Matt, Harry, Mark, Lane and Mike as they leave Council.

Final Whip Around

Looking forward to a great year with the new members, with everyone working together to make great decisions and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The work we do is important and filled with challenges. Those who are leaving have done a fine job and those who are joining are welcomed. Focus on using PC/Staff Days to focus on strategy rather than budget.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned 10:45

New/Continuing Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Council Members	6/7/05	Review PC Goals from Mary and Matt – provide feedback to Mary who will finalize list.	ASAP

Completed Action Items:

Person Assigned	Date of Origin	Item Description	Due Date
Matt	3/1/05	Write goals for Council	ASAP
Harry	1/4/05	Prepare survey comments/results for bulletin	ASAP
Commission Members	5/3/05	Prepare summary of achievements over prior year to use as handout for Town Hall Meetings	5/10/05
Matt, Chuck and Harry	5/3/05	Coordinate Town Hall Meetings	5/16/05
Sr. Madelyn, Chuck, Josephine	5/3/05	Coordinate PC/Staff Day	6/7/05

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder