

**St. Margaret Mary Parish  
Pastoral Council Minutes  
September 6, 2005**

**Members Present:** Mike Prus      Dick Backer      Paul Weinewuth      Mary Runger  
Gary Skarr      Nickie Everett      Fr. Dan Hessling      Fr. Bill O'Shea  
Dick Henke      Rick Weller      Sr. Madelyn Gould      Judy Thalmann  
Josephine Lewis

**Also Attending:** Larry Lucas

**Not Present:** Chuck Marquis      Rachel Ptak      Matt Kerr

**Opening Prayer:** Dick Henke

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with the change of Judy not being present.

**Discussion Items**

**A. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Summary/Update**

Celebration planning has continued throughout the summer. Chuck Topping has prepared bulletin inserts that spoke of "Treasures from Our Past" with memories from priests and members that were part of our parish's beginning. There is a photo collage on display that Mary Ann Cronauer changes periodically. Mary Lou Krauss created banners and our parish's sign has an additional 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary strip. Ken Miles coordinated the celebration masses over the July 10<sup>th</sup> weekend. This included founding-members recognition, a special bulletin cover, and a special chant arranged by John Schlaman, our new Music Director.

On September 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a 'Gathering of Friends' with snacks, beverages, music and an evening devoted to fellowship. It will be coordinated with the Men's Club Parish Picnic that will be held the next day.

A special mass will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup> with Bishop Immesch, Frs. Bill, Dan, Jon, Ted, Philip and Don, Sisters Madelyn, Elizabeth and Ester, Deacons Ken, Terry and Jim and Joe Voss participating. There will be a special liturgy with choral music and if there is an overflow there will be a video hookup in the parish center.

Three hundred forty have signed up for the banquet that evening at Benedictine University with a buffet, bar and DJ. The committee is working within the budget that they were given, trying to be careful with the funds.

The committee that has worked very hard during these months consists of Larry Lucas, Joe Broda, Chuck Topping, Tom Stahl, Mary Costello as well as many others.

**B. Welcome and Spiritual Focus**

Mary welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year. She stressed how important it is that we come to these meetings first focused on prayer and reflection. Dick Henke shared a prayer and read Sunday's Gospel followed with a reflection question.

Mary has reformatted the agenda, and has the goal of continuing the strengths of the former years' councils as well as making positive changes.

**C. Pastoral Council/Commission Goal-Setting and Review**

Mary, working with the goals from the Wish Groups, reviewed PC's goals for the current year.

- Make our VISION be our MISSION
  - Incorporate more prayer and reflection and make goals specific and measurable.
  - Expand "Big Picture" high level planning including new agenda format with goal setting, review of accomplishments, and annual short and long term planning scheduling. Continue education process for PC and Commission members. Continue to share information with parishioners via bulletin

announcements, summaries and agendas. Mary will provide an insert this month giving a general update of Council's progress.

- Expand outreach and communication bringing in fringe parishioners. It was suggested that Commissions focus on encouraging minority parishioners to participate in ministries. Schedule Commission members to alternately attend PC meetings and encourage participation in Council by under-represented groups. Judy will invite members of Christian Education Commission to the October meeting and Council members will be responsible to review all documentation that will be emailed beforehand and be prepared to discuss goals and discussion items with this Commission.
- Mary suggested that each Commission as well as Staff discern two parishioners for potential Council members beginning next year. This was approved as a goal.

**D. Wish Group Review/Discussion**

Wish Group 1 will meet this week and Al Gustafson will continue to meet with them. Their task is to write a Vision Statement for the parish by August 2006.

Wish Group 2 will meet soon to continue to develop an accountability plan begun during 2004-2005.

Wish Group 3 will also meet soon, with Josephine in charge of convening the group to continue to find ways to improve communication within the parish.

**E. Consideration – Add Representative from ASCA to Council**

There was a discussion on whether it would be beneficial to add a representative from the new school as a member of Council, to provide updates of the school as well as represent our parish at the school as they work with the three parishes. If this would take place, a change would be needed to the Constitution.

Other options include having a liaison, a non-voting member, or just a summary sent to Council on a monthly basis.

It was decided that Mary will contact both our parishioners that are members of ASCA's school board and members of the participating parishes to see how they are integrating information sharing between the school and the parish councils.

**F. Annual Appreciation Dinner**

There was a discussion about options for a 2006 Appreciation Dinner. It is important to show appreciation for volunteers at our parish. There had been a possibility that anniversary celebration plans would coincide with an appreciation dinner but those plans were changed. There are some funds remaining in the Anniversary Celebration budget that could be used toward a large gathering dinner. In addition, there is the concern that many catechists do not attend the appreciation dinners. Mary suggested a Family Festival/Pizza Party, held at ASCA.

The discussion included the fact that catechists are welcomed as well as every other volunteer and they make the choice not to attend, possibly since they have children at home that need child care. But the appreciation dinners have been adult-only dress-up affairs in the past and there may be some problems with changing this format.

People should be recognized for their service at this parish, but the funds are not in the budget this year for the same format that has been used in the past. It will be taken back to the Anniversary Committee to ask them to re-address the situation. Other options can be taken to show our appreciation in non-dinner modes. It will be discussed again at the October meeting.

**G. Capital Campaign Update**

Just over \$3,000,000 has been pledged. The process continues and the solicitation stage has not yet been closed. Dick Henke will continue provide updates.

**H. Diocesan Loan Terms**

There has not been any response from the diocese for our requested change to the loan repayment schedule. Our parish has begun paying \$10,000 per month to the school for our share of the loan’s interest payments.

**I. Highlights of the Profit/Loss Report**

As of the end of the fiscal year, June 30<sup>th</sup>, the cash flow was appreciatively positive. Due to careful spending and generous contributions, there was \$26,496 remaining that was transferred to the Repair and Replacement account.

**J. Building Expansion Update**

Dick Backer has revisited the building expansion plans with Staff members. It is determined that these plans continue to be acceptable and reasonable to Staff and have not been ‘outdated’.

Josephine would like to have volunteer architects review the plans to provide additional feedback. This will be discussed further at the October meeting.

It is hoped that these plans will be approved in the very near future so the next steps can be taken and ground will be broken within a year.

**Commission Reports**

**Administration Commission** – Three people have committed to form a team to create and maintain a new website format.

**Christian Education** – Classes have begun. CEC will be a major part of Threads.

**Christian Service** – no report

**Worship** – no report

**Youth Representative** – no report

**Pastor’s Comments**

It’s hard not to get involved in minutiae at this level. Welcome back to everyone and special welcome to new members. Good things were accomplished tonight even though several issues are postponed to future meetings.

**Final Whip Around**

Good beginning. Things dragged at times and can tighten up in the future. We’ll all work to keep the momentum going and meetings shorter. Good to have vision and set goals. Ask God’s mercy on all who have suffered with Hurricane Katrina.

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned 10:45

**New/Continuing Action Items:**

<b>Person Assigned</b>	<b>Date of Origin</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Mary	9/6/05	Prepare bulletin insert describing Council’s current issues and desire to interact with parishioners	September
Judy	9/6/05	Invite CEC members to October’s meeting. PC members will be prepared to interact with this commission from emails prior to the meeting	10/4/05
Wish Groups	9/6/05	All groups meet during prior to October meeting and send summary of meetings to Council.	10/4/05
Mary	9/6/05	Contact school board and other parishes – help determine how school is represented to Council.	10/4/05
Chuck?	7/12/05	SMMP PC needs to work on a mechanism to lock-in the amount owed and/or a mechanism to work through any changes in our obligation.	September

Finance Committee (Bill)	7/12/05	Develop an optimal solution for SMMP, and propose the solution to the Diocese. What is the right schedule for the debt repayment? 10, 15 or 20 years- SMMP must speak-up before a decision is made.	September
Mary	7/12/05	Liaison needed from SMMP PC on the school Board of Trustees- Need a method to communicate with the Board of Trustees representatives. We need to get the 3 sponsoring parishes together to talk this budget over without the school rep's. involved.	September
Mike Prus & Dick Henke	7/12/05	How many people are on a 5-year payment schedule for the Expansion? Possibly target with communications to accelerate donations. Will need to bring this idea up with the steering committee.	September
Building Committee (Dick)	7/12/05	Need to re-address the building plans with the new budget. Building committee to present to Parish Council.	Continuing

**Refreshments and Prayer:**

October – Judy  
November – Chuck/Mike  
December – Rachel/Matt  
January – Rick  
February – Nickie  
March – Paul  
April – Gary  
May – Dick  
June – Josephine/Sr. Madelyn

**Hospitality Sundays:**

September 25 – Christian Education  
November 20 – Administration (Bread for the World Campaign)  
December 11 – Pastoral Council  
February 12 – Christian Service  
March 19 – Christian Worship (Affordable Housing Campaign)  
April 23 – Christian Education (Diocesan Appeal)  
May 20-21 – Pastoral Council (Ministry Fair)

Respectfully submitted by Katrina Meder

*NOTE: A special award was presented to Dick Backer at the Pastoral Council/Staff Day in August, thanking him for his tireless work with our parish from its inception. He has been part of so many aspects, with most hours spent as the unofficial 'Building Manager'. Our parish has much to be grateful for his efforts and assistance both in our past and our future.*