

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting  
April 11, 2006**

The **meeting opened** at 7 pm by Patty Ceille, Vice- Chairperson.

**Gathering hymn:** *Tree of Life*. **Scripture passage:** *John 20:1-9*, read by Tom Grinker, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

**Share/reflect:** Councilors shared their reflections.

**Welcome guests:** Robb Leitinger – Cub Master, Pack 530

Lisa Ryan & Andrea Kozak, *Royal Affair* Fundraising Committee

Sybil Grandeck – St. Mary Archivist

March **meeting minutes accepted** with revisions noted.

**Pastor's report** – Fr. Chuck Schramm

Our Lenten journey as a community has been a good one overall.

Fr. Chuck is excited about *JustFAITH*; a transformation process designed to empower participants to become the voices and the agents of God's good news. Questions about living our faith with today's challenges are answered through reflection, study, prayer and community. This intensive thirty-week program will run from September, 2006 – May, 2007.

Mark Peters, our parish consultant from the Archdiocese, contacted Fr. Chuck regarding his first year evaluation. A meeting, date to be determined, will be held with Mark Peters, Fr. Chuck, Parish Staff and Parish Council. Fr. Chuck has gotten a "good sense of welcoming" from the parish community and is happy to be at St. Mary.

**Scouting report** – Robb Leitinger

Robb Leitinger, Pack 530 Cub Master, invited by Theresa Illingworth, Parish Council liaison to Scouting at St. Mary, came to update us on scouting activities.

Robb related that one of the cornerstones of scouting is teaching young boys to become good citizens by participating in service projects. The 'Scouting for Food' project was just completed. The largest single-day food drive in the State: 27 scouts and 15 adults participated from Pack 530.

The Pack also participated in 'Operation Christmas Child', sponsored by *Samaritan's Purse*. Enough items were collected to fill 50 boxes and enough money was collected to ship the boxes all over the world.

A bake sale was held last Fall with proceeds going to our sister parish in Haiti.

The scouts maintain an island in the church parking lot, and hold a plant sale in Spring.

**Youth ministry report** - no report

**Finance & administrative services report** – Ron Gilles, Director

We are 'on track' to meet our budget. No problems foreseen at this time.

An act of vandalism to church property occurred a week ago. The back of the outdoor air conditioning unit was vandalized with graffiti at a cost of \$6,500 for repairs. The property

is insured (with a \$1,000 deductible), but further steps will need to be taken to prevent future incidents. A chain-linked fence will need to be installed around the air conditioner to prevent vandalism.

The Hales Corners Fire Department, while responding to a fire alarm in the church, found a number of illegally parked cars in the parking lot, blocking fire lanes and creating a potentially dangerous situation. The illegally parked cars made it difficult for the fire trucks to enter and exit the premises. It was noted that there have been many infractions by parents driving up to pick up their children after school. Based on this information, educational material will be sent to school parents. It was agreed that we need to be proactive and aggressive in this area to prevent a disaster. First and foremost, we have to think of the safety of our children and parishioners. The Fire Department will be in touch with Ron Gilles to find out what our plan of action will be.

Island maintenance (planted areas in the church parking lot) has been addressed and it is clear that a new plan has to be devised. Results of a questionnaire indicate that the parishioners who 'adopted' an island no longer plan to continue with maintenance.

A new tuition payment plan for school tuition payment is needed. The service provider of the current St. Mary's school tuition payment plan will no longer provide this service. A letter will be sent to all school parents alerting them of this change.

***Royal Affair update*** – Lisa Ryan/Andrea Kozak

The Royal Affair, major fundraiser for the parish Endowment Fund, is in its 11<sup>th</sup> year. A percentage of the annual interest gained by the Endowment Fund goes to offset the parish budget. Rekindling friendships and making new friends is the focus of this year's *Royal Reunion* to be held at Boerner Botanical Gardens on 11-11-06. Cost: \$85.00

Many people have stepped forward to assist with the fundraising to offset some of the costs. "We are trying to make this a very inclusive event." The committee is grateful to parents, parishioners, parish organizations, and community leaders for their participation. The endowment fund benefits both parish and school.

**Discuss old church cornerstone** – Sybil Grandeck

No plans were made for incorporation of the 1963 church cornerstone when the church was rebuilt. The old cornerstone also has a 'time capsule' inside. There is historical significance to St. Mary being the second oldest parish in the Archdiocese. Councilors are in agreement that the cornerstone should be located in a place of significance. Mary Matestic sent an e-mail prior to this Council meeting suggesting that this issue be presented to the Art and Environment Committee. Sybil expressed her opinion, after consulting a historian, and gave several suggestions. She would like to be on the committee that looks into the appropriate placement of this historical marker.

**New member discernment** – Theresa Illingworth

Mary Campbell, Theresa Illingworth and Julie Schultz are working together for the discernment of new Council members. A decision was made to have one discernment session for both adults and youth. May 16<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date. Mark Peters, our Archdiocesan advisor, will facilitate the process.

May 6 – 7<sup>th</sup> is nomination weekend, with two Councilors at each Mass to answer questions. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Recommendations for nominees, youth and adult, can be given to the committee members.

A follow-up will take place with candidates who were not discerned to find out what other areas in our parish would peak their interest.

**Alcohol availability at parish events – Tom Kronschnabl**

It was acknowledged that from time to time there needs to be an evaluation of alcohol consumption policies for parish events. There were questions as to whether there are any policies governing the presence of alcohol at parish events. Consensus was that there is no written policy, but that everyone needs to: be responsible; use good judgment at parish events where alcohol is consumed; and to be good role models for our children.

**Closing prayer:** *The Our Father* was prayed, followed by the *Sign of Peace*.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9: 00 pm

**Minutes submitted by** Linda Jaeschke, Recording Secretary

**Present**

Fr. Todd Budde	Fr. Chuck Schramm
Patty Ceille	Tom Grinker
Clem Budny	Mary Campbell
Theresa Illingworth	Tom Kronschnabl
Mary Matestic	Dawn Olander
Dan Paruzynski	Ron Gilles
Julie Schultz	Paul Stewart
Bob Stollenwerk	Tim Welch

**Excused**

Ray Moon  
Liz LeGant  
Brendt Zydowicz  
Gregg Saksefski