

**St. Mary Parish Council Meeting**  
**May 9, 2006**

The **meeting opened** at 7 pm by Ray Moon, Chairperson.

**Gathering hymn:** *City of God*. **Scripture passage:** *John 15:1-8*, read by Mary Campbell, followed by recitation of the Parish Mission Statement.

**Share/reflect:** Councilors shared their reflections on the scripture passage.

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

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

Alcohol at parish events update: There is no formal policy at the Archdiocesan level. As concluded in the April Parish Council minutes, we will continue to be responsible, use good judgment and be good role models for our children. We are licensed to sell liquor at the parish festival and fish fries. We are in 'good standing' with our insurance carrier, other parishes, and the Archdiocese.

Spring Assembly of Priests: Many interesting topics were discussed. It is always good to connect and share stories.

Archbishop Dolan addressed several issues, including that: Priests should no longer give general absolution. It is not legal at this time in church history. And that: As a Diocese, we are financially stable right now. It is unknown what the future will hold if the statute of limitations is extended for lawsuits, or if the California cases advance.

VIRTUS training: Tim Winters is monitoring the efforts at St. Mary to keep children safe in our parish environment. We have met all of the criteria. VIRTUS training, for anyone who works with our children and youth is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary. It is a part of the prevention of sexual abuse of children sponsored by the Archdiocese.

First Eucharist: The formation of our First Communicants was outstanding. Thank you to Jim Beuscher and all of the teachers who provided First Eucharist formation. Being part of the parish community is an important aspect of the celebration for our children.

**Youth ministry report** - Liz LeGant/Brendt Zydowicz

Liz reported that the Youth Group is on hiatus right now, due to end-of-the-school year activities, graduations, etc. Brendt added that the group, mostly comprised of Seniors and Sophomores, will be in transition with the Seniors leaving. The youth will re-group after the Pine Ridge Mission trip, scheduled for the end of June.

Brendt will be going on his second Haiti mission from June 9-17 with several St. Mary parish members. He expressed that it is quite difficult to put into words the feeling of awe he has experienced witnessing the spirituality of the Haitians; living in poverty as they do, yet having tremendous devotional practices and Christian beliefs.

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

We are 'on track' and moving along at a good pace relating to our budget. At this pace we will not end with a deficit. Monthly collections, as well as weekend Mass collections, are on track for this period of time.

Finance sub-committee: The next phase of marketing of the mortgage payment plan to the parish is in discussion. It was determined that we would not have another pledge campaign, since we have had two already. Once a plan is approved by the Finance Committee and by the Parish Council, it will be presented to the parish.

Parking lot issues: Illegally parked cars make it difficult for the Hales Corners Fire Department to enter and exit the premises in the event of an emergency. It was noted that there have been many infractions during Masses and also by parents picking up the children after school. The Fire Department was in touch with Ron Gilles to determine a plan of action. Ron has been monitoring the parking lot and advising parishioners who violate the parking laws.

Ron sent a letter to Lt. Frieberg to report the actions agreed upon by our Pastor and our School Principal. Monitoring will continue and further options will be explored. It was agreed on by Councillors that announcements at the end of Mass would be helpful.

#### **Church and school cornerstone update – Mary Matestic**

Since the April Parish Council report, the 1963 cornerstone was determined to be the 1953 cornerstone from the school, and not from the old church as first thought. The 1953 cornerstone also has a ‘time capsule’ inside, so it has historical significance to St. Mary. Councillors agree that the cornerstone should be located in a place of significance. There was consensus that the newly built church should also have a cornerstone to continue the tradition. Mary will present both of these ideas to the Art and Environment Committee.

#### **Festival garage update – Julie Schultz**

Plans have been drawn up for the festival garage to be built adjacent to the west side of the upper parking lot. An overhang on the parking lot side of the building will be used for festival booths, but will not eliminate any parking spaces. The building plan for the garage has to be approved by the Village of Hales Corners.

The plan will then be presented to the Parish Council for approval.

The building project is being funded through donations, with the work being done by volunteers.

#### **Overnight & half-day retreats – Mary Matestic**

Mary reported that the Sienna Center is available on November 17-18. Councillors approved of these dates for the Parish Council overnight retreat.

The half-day retreat with Parish Council and Parish Staff has yet to be planned. The location and date will need to be coordinated.

#### **New member discernment – Mary Campbell**

Mary Campbell, Theresa Illingworth and Julie Schultz have been working together for the discernment of new Council members. There are 48 nominations. Calls are being placed to each of the nominees to determine their acceptance of the nomination. There will be one discernment session for both adults and youth reps on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Three youth representative nominees will attend the discernment session. Mark Peters, our Archdiocesan advisor, will be the facilitator of the discernment process.

For those nominees discerned, there is a subsequent orientation (\$5.00 fee).

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

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:55 pm

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

**Present**

Fr. Todd Budde

Patty Ceille

Clem Budny

Theresa Illingworth

Mary Matestic

Dan Paruzynski

Julie Schultz

Bob Stollenwerk

Fr. Chuck Schramm

Tom Grinker

Mary Campbell

Ron Gilles

Ray Moon

Paul Stewart

Tim Welch

Liz LeGant

Brendt Zydowicz

**Excused**

Tom Kronschnabl

Dawn Olander

Gregg Saksefski